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DIVERSE OCCASIONS

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LETTERS

ON

Spiritual Subjects,

AND

DIVERS OCCASIONS;

SENT TO

Relations and Friends.

Mrs. Anne Dutton

By One who has tasted that the LORD is
GRACIOUS.

VOL. IV.

*Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one
another, even as also ye do, 1 Theff. v. 11.*



L O N D O N:

Printed by J. HART, in Poppings-Court, Fleet-street: And
sold by J. LEWIS, in Bartholomew Close near West Smith-
field; and E. GARDNER, at Milton's-Head, near Aldgate,
1746. [Price stitch'd Nine-pence.]

LETTERS

OF

SPIRITUAL FRIENDS

AND

THEIR OWNERS

PRINTED

RELATIONS AND FRIENDS

THE FIRST PART OF THE FIRST VOLUME
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LETTERS

ON

Spiritual Subjects, &c.

LETTER I.

To Mr. and Mrs. *W—s*.

My Dear and Honour'd Parents,

I Rejoyce to hear of your Welfare. It must needs be well with *us*, in every State, that are so nearly related to, and so well secur'd in CHRIST. Infinite Love, chose us in Him, before Time began; united us to Him, unto our Life from Him, when the LORD pass'd by us, saw us in our *Blood*, and said unto us, *Live*. Infinite Love, acquainted us with our Misery, reveal'd the Remedy, shew'd us our Danger, presented our Refuge, enabled us to flee unto, into CHRIST: And then the LORD *shut us in*. By his great *Word*, his irreversibile *Oath*, given for our Salvation: That thenceforth, we might have *strong Consolation*. — We are *Heirs of Promise*, my dear Parents: And therefore our Inheritance is secure. Oh were we to *earn* an Inheritance in God, by the Works of our own Hands, by our own Obedience to the *Law*; we must go without it for ever. But an Inheritance by *Promise*, suits us. This great Inheritance of the LORD, for our Portion, given us by *free Promise*, and confirm'd to us in the LAMB's *Blood*; displays the *Glory* of Sovereign Grace, and well *agrees* with our Poverty. An Inheritance given us by free, unchanging *Promise*,

mise, with the *Yea*, and *Amen* of GOD upon it in CHRIST; must needs be *ours*, and for ever *sure* to us, notwithstanding all our Unworthiness. — But oh, what reason have we to lament, that we have behav'd no more, like *Heirs of Promise*! For myself, I mourn, I lament over all my unsuitable Behaviour, to that infinite Favour, which is cast upon me by the GOD of all Grace, in making me an *Heir of Promise*! Oh my *Sins*, since the Lord acquainted me herewith, deserve the hottest *Hell*! And yet, to the Glory of boundless Grace, my Inheritance is *secure*! The Mercies of God's everlasting Covenant, to me in Christ, are *sure Mercies*! Because they are *free Mercies*, *unconditional Mercies*: That don't stand upon my little, fickle Obedience; but upon the immutable Grace, the unchanging Truth and Faithfulness of the great JEHOVAH! And the Greatness and Eternity of the REDEEMER's Merit! — This comforts me greatly, humbles me deeply, and attracts me strongly, to love HIM, that GOD of Love, *who first loved*, who will always love *me*. — But oh, what can I do for *Him*, who has done so much for *me*! Ah *little, very little*, if compar'd with the *great Obligations* I am under! *Yea, nothing* can I do for GOD, but what his *free Love* enables me to do. And then of his *own*, I give him. And in infinite Grace, he *accepts* my little Mite! But surely, if of his Stock, I had an Angel's Store; I would lay it out, to a *Methusalah's* Age, to endless Days, to glorify the GOD of Grace, of all Grace, who has made me an *Heir of Promise*! In Heaven, I shall love and serve him perfectly and eternally. And I long to do both increasingly, while on this Earth. Help me by your Prayers. — *The Grace of Christ be with your Spirit*. — I am, my honour'd Parents,

Your most dutiful Child,

L E T.

LETTER II.

To Mr. P——ll.

My dear Brother in Christ,

I Thank you for your Letter. I rejoyce in what God hath done for your Soul. Truly, if the LORD had been minded to *destroy you*, he would not have shewed you *these Things*: Viz. The Plague of your own Heart; The Insufficiency of your own Righteousness; And the Excellency and Glory of *Christ*, as the only SAVIOUR: Whence you desire to be found in *him*, wash'd in his Blood, cloth'd with his Righteousness, and saved in him with an everlasting Salvation; to the endless *Glory* of rich, free, sovereign *Grace*. These are such Things, that God reveals to none but those who are *Vessels of Mercy*: *Whom he had afore prepared unto Glory*. CHRIST is yours, and you are his; and neither Sin, Death nor Hell, shall ever *separate you from his Love*. He has begun your Salvation; and he will finish it. He hath given you precious Faith; and he will perfect it. And your very *Desire* to be found in Christ; is an *Evidence* of your Faith in him, and Love to him. It was foretold concerning Unbelievers, That when they *see Christ*, in the outward Revelation of him, there would be to them, *no Beauty in him that they should desire him*, Isa. liii. 2. And on the contrary, it is said of Believers, *unto you that believe, he is precious*, or desireable, 1 Pet. ii. 7. Not one Soul, that *desires Christ*, shall ever *die* for Want of him. Not one Soul, that sees Christ to be *Altogether Lovely*, but stands in a *Marriage-relation* to him, in an indissoluble Union to the Lord of Life and Love. Not one Soul, that is made *willing* to be saved in God's Way, by his Free Grace, thro' the Lamb's Love and Blood, Righteousness and Power; but shall be *saved by him to the uttermost*, from all Misery, unto all Glory. The *Desire* of the Soul going out after Christ, is its *coming* to him. *And him that cometh unto me*, saith our Lord, *I will in no wise cast out*, John vi. 37. No; CHRIST receives that Soul, unto the Glory of God: To save him from endless Misery, to
ever-

everlasting Glory. And there is such an infinite Fulness of all Salvation-Blessings in *Christ*, for the most poor and miserable, wretched and naked *Sinner*, that comes to him, that he need fear *no Want*. There is Salvation-Help enough in *Christ*, to answer our extensive Destruction, in and of *ourselves*. To make us as free from Sin, in its Guilt, Filth and Power, as holy to God, and as happy in him, as *Adam* was, before his Fall: Yea, to raise us to an higher Life and Glory. Our Lord is come, that we might have *Life*, and have it *more abundantly*. And all the Fulness of *CHRIST*, is made over, by the Word and Oath of a *GOD* that cannot *lie*, unto the most miserable, needy *Sinner* that comes unto him. — Come then, come again and again, with your every Day's Wants and Miseries, unto the Fulness, the Mercies of the great *SAVIOUR*. And thence you shall receive, and *Grace for Grace*. The Arms of *Christ*, stand wide open to receive you. You will honour the Redeemer's Love, Blood and Fulness, his Power and Faithfulness, if you come to him daily, and cast yourself upon him, as a most miserable *Sinner*, for a full Supply of all your Wants. And I can tell you from his Word, and from my own Experience, that he will not send you *empty away*.

I am glad that you have such a Sense of *Sin*, that you can *justify God*, if he was to send you to *Hell*, and acknowledge his Righteousness therein; that you would love him, and speak well of his Goodness to others. Yea, that the very Thoughts of *God's* being *glorify'd*, if you was to be *damned*, afford you some *Pleasure*. These Things are an Evidence, of true Love to *God* in the Heart. Of *that Love*, which whoever hath it, shall *never* go down to *Hell*. Of *that Love*, which is a *Preparation* for *Heaven*, and the very *Beginning* of it in the Soul.

And as a Thought, that *God* would be *more glorify'd* in your Salvation, than in your Damnation, is *more pleasant* to you; Let this move you to come with Alacrity, unto *Christ for Life*. For in the Salvation of Sinners by *Jesus Christ*, all the Perfections and Glories of *Jehovah*, radiantly shine, and are harmoniously display'd. Here, in the Salvation of chief Sinners, thro' the crucify'd *SAVIOUR*; *Justice* and *Mercy* are met together, *Righteousness* and *Peace*, do
kiss

kiss each other. This is the Way that infinite Wisdom has devised, that infinite Grace has provided, that the LORD himself hath chosen, for the most resplendent Display of his infinite Glory.

Like then, what GOD likes. Embrace his SON held out freely unto you in the Gospel. It will please the Father well, if you lay hold by Faith on the great SAVIOUR, for yourself as a *chief Sinner.* This is a faithful Saying, and worthy of all Acceptation, that Jesus Christ came into the World, to save Sinners, Chief Sinners. Oh, accept of him. Take him for yourself. CHRIST is a free Gift. You may have him without Money, and without Price. The Father bids you, the Son bids you, the Spirit bids you receive him. And unto you, the Lord will give Power, Privilege, a Royal Grant, with efficacious Influence, to become a Son of God. An Heir of GOD, and a Joint-Heir with CHRIST! Come again and again to the Lord Jesus. Let this be your Life continually. “Unto whom coming (says the Apostle) as “unto a living Stone, &c.” Oh stand not gazing upon your Sins and Miseries, till you lose yourself in a Maze: But haste away to CHRIST, upon the first Sight of them. His Name is called JESUS: For he shall save his People from their Sins. Honour him then, in this his Office as a SAVIOUR, by coming to him for all Salvation, for all Grace and Mercy, as being in yourself a miserable Sinner. And Christ will make you a glorious Saint, or sanctify you wholly, in Spirit, Soul and Body, and present you Faultless, before the Presence of his Father's Glory, with exceeding Joy.

Be not surprized at the Being and Working of Sin in you. The Canaanites dwelt in the Land, to learn Israel War. And by little and little, the LORD will drive them out from before us, until we be increased in Grace, to inherit the Glory prepared for us. — As to your Unbelief; distinguish between a State of Unbelief, and the Workings of Unbelief, between total, and partial Unbelief. You are not in a State of Unbelief. But you, and every Believer, have Unbelief, remaining and working in the Soul where Faith dwells. And as Unbelief opposes, more or less, our Acts of Faith continually; we are call'd to fight the good Fight of Faith. And the more frequent our Acts of Faith

on

on Christ are, the *weaker* will the Power of Unbelief grow in our Souls. It is no *proud Presumption*, but *humble Faith*, for a poor *Sinner*, to come repeatedly to the merciful SAVIOUR, and rest his weary Head in Christ's Bosom; believing, according to his Promise, *that he will give him Rest*, from all his Sins and Fears, and to the utmost of all his Desires, both of Grace and Glory.

It was not *Satan*, to deceive you, but the *Spirit of God*, to comfort you, that apply'd those Scriptures to your Heart, which were pleasant to your Soul. And *those*, and *all* the Promises of God, are yours in *Christ*. They are all *yea*, and *Amen*, unto you in *him*. And in looking for the *Effects* of the Promise, to know if it was from the *Lord*; seek the *immediate Effects* of it in your *Heart*; just *when* and *while*, the Word abides with Power on your Mind; And the *remote Effects* of it in your Life, just *so far* as the Promise influenceth your Heart. To look for immediate, inward Effects of the Word, when the Power of it is gone off the Mind; is like looking what o'Clock it is by the Dial, when the Sun don't shine on it. — Don't wonder, that you have a *Heart*, and a *Heart*; a Heart for *God*, and a Heart that *departs from him*. Since in your Soul, there are *Two Natures*: The new Man, and the old. Since in your corrupt Nature, there dwelleth *no good Thing*; and in your new Nature, tho' all Good dwells, yet is it *weak*, and *imperfect*. Grace is in its Infancy, and therefore at Times, overcome by the old Man, by the Power of Corruption in your Soul. But your *little Grace*, being *Christ's Life in you*; shall be maintain'd and increas'd from his Fulness, until all Sin and Death, is *swallow'd up* of perfect Holiness, Life and Joy for evermore. — *Head-Knowledge* of Gospel-Truths, is a *Privilege*. Pray for the Holy Ghost's *Fire*, to enkindle them in your *Heart*, and change your *Soul* into the Image of Christ by them. — I am glad that my printed Account of the Lord's gracious Dealings with *me*, has been blest to *you*, to encourage you to hope in, and seek for, his rich, free, abundant Grace, to be display'd towards you. *Your Heart shall live, that seeks God*. I hope to think on you before the Lord; and shall be glad to correspond with you, if his Glory and your Joy may be promoted thereby.

Com-

Committing you to the Care of CHRIST the great Shepherd ; I am, Sir,

Yours affectionately in Him,

L E T T E R III.

To Mrs. A. and Mrs. M. W——s.

Dear Children,

I Rejoyc'd to hear, that you were under any Concern about your precious Souls, and inclin'd to seek JESUS. An Interest in CHRIST, is the *One Thing needful*. If we have *this*, we shall be eternally happy ; if we have it *not* ; eternally miserable. *The Wages of Sin is Death : But the Gift of God is eternal Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.* God hath given, and will give, to poor Sinners, *eternal Life* : And this Life is in his Son. He that findeth *Christ*, findeth *Life*, and shall obtain *Favour of the LORD*. O my dear Children, we are all of us, born into this World, most miserable *Sinners*. We are quite undone ; we have *destroy'd* ourselves by Sin. But for ever adored be God's Free Grace ! In Christ the *Saviour*, is our *Help*. It hath pleas'd the Lord, to lay *Help*, the Help of Sinners, upon one that is *mighty*. Upon the mighty SAVIOUR, who is able and willing, to save to the Uttermost, even all that come unto God by him. There is all Fulness in Christ, to answer your every Want. All the infinite Treasures, the inexhaustible Stores of Grace and Life, are laid up in Christ ; on purpose for the most poor and miserable, blind and naked, and Law condemned Sinners that come unto him. Do you *see* your Misery ? Do you *want* Mercy ? Is God's free Mercy in Christ, *desirable* to you ? Then are *you*, you as it were by Name, call'd by JESUS, to *come* unto him, and *drink* : To take your Fill freely, of all the Grace you want, to save you from all Misery, unto all Glory. He will not send you *empty away*. His Love, his Mercy, his Power, his Faithfulness, are all engag'd to save you. He will not, he cannot deny himself. He will in no wise cast out, any poor Soul that comes unto him for Life.

And do you begin to *see* any Beauty in Christ? Any Preciousness in his Blood? Any Glory in his Righteousness? Any Excellency in his Fullness? Then remember what he says for your Encouragement: *I love them that love Me, and those that seek Me early shall find Me*, Prov. viii. 17. Christ first loved *you*; or you had not been drawn by a Sight of his Beauty, to love *him*. He first desir'd to save *you*; or you had not been desirous to be saved by *him*. Christ was first willing to be married unto *you*; or you had not been made willing to have *him*, the LORD of Hosts, your Maker, your Redeemer, for your Husband. And if *Christ* is willing to embrace you as his own, in the Arms of his infinite Love; and *you* are willing to be folded up for ever in his sweet Embraces: *What can hinder?* Oh give up yourselves to JESUS, to be entirely *his*; and HE will be entirely *yours*. And the Day of your *Espousals* unto him, will be the Day of the *Gladness of his Heart*. Oh did you see but a thousandth Part of his infinite Worth, did you taste but a thousandth Part of his infinite Sweetness, your Souls would be *sick of Love* for him, the *Chiefest among ten Thousand!* For HIM, that fair, that incomparably fair, and *altogether lovely* ONE! Oh dear Children, CHRIST is a Well of Life, a Sea of Bliss, a Mass of Treasure, that is Bottomless, Boundless, Endless! In HIM, all Beauties, and Glories, all Delights, and Perfections, both created and uncreated; do jointly and for ever *meet!* Neither the Tongues of Men, nor of Angels, were they employ'd to an eternal Space, could tell you the one *Half*, no nor the ten *Thousandth Part* of his infinite Glory! Oh seek an intimate Acquaintance with JESUS! Nothing like *this*, to tell you what JESUS is. CHRIST is best *known*, by a real Enjoyment, a feeling Possession, and humble Adoration, of his great, his glorious, his blissful SELF! Hereby your Souls will be filled with all the Fulness of GOD; changed into the same Image, from Glory to Glory, in this World; until you see CHRIST as he is, are made perfectly like him, and appear with him in the Glory of the World to come. — *Grace be with you!* I remain

Yours most affectionately,

L E T T E R IV.

To Mr. and Mrs. W——s.

My very Dear and much Honour'd Parents,

WITH Gladness I received your kind Letter. As it is your Desire, my dear and honour'd Father, *That Christ may be magnified in your Body, whether it be by Life, or by Death*: So I know it will be your Joy, if the Lord Jesus, will please in his infinite Grace, to say of any of *your Offspring, I am glorify'd in them.* The Hope of *This*, yea, the Joy of it, when my dear Lord is graciously pleas'd to hint it to my Spirit, concerning my unworthy *Self*, fills me with Heart-melting Wonder, Love and Thankfulness. And how greatly hath the Lord blest you, in *others* of your Offspring! What a Joy will it be to you at the last Day, to see us *all* rais'd up unto *Life eternal*, to inherit Glory with *you*! To say, like your Lord, concerning all your dear Children, for whom you have pour'd out so many Prayers and Tears, and whom so often you have kindly instructed and exhorted; *Lord, here am I, and the Children which Thou hast given me!* How will it rejoice your dear Soul, to see that none of us are lost; but all brought safe by God's Free-Grace, to his eternal Glory! To see us *all*, each one in our own Place, as so many bright Jewels, clad with an amazing Splendor, and fixt by the King of Glory, in his Crown Royal, for ever and ever! Oh when *we*, by our Lord, are presented *Faultless*, before the Presence of the Father's *Glory*, together with *you*; it will be with *exceeding Joy*! We shall each one rejoice in our *own* Salvation, with a Joy that far exceeds all present Thought; and have an additional Joy in the Salvation of *each other*.—And this Glory, my honour'd Parents, hastens upon us, and all the Chosen of God. *This Mortal must put on Immortality. This earthly Tabernacle, must be dissolved.* That so we may be *clothed* with that *House*, that *Building of God*, that ineffable Glory, prepar'd for us, *Eternal in the Heavens.* Oh my dear Parents, your dear Lord Jesus will be with you, in all your Pains and Afflictions, thro' the Infirmities of an advanced Age. The Lord will make all your

Bed for you, when *sick*. And when *Death* comes, and no Creature can help you: Then, then will the LORD be your Helper. He will *never leave you, nor forsake you*: No, not in *Death's Water*. *Jesus* your High Priest will go before you, make a *Way* for you, and bring you safe over *Jordan*, into the promis'd *Land*. *The Eternal God* is your *Refuge*: And underneath you, in your last Trial, will be the *everlasting Arms*. These Almighty Arms, will keep your Spirits from sinking, when your Bodies must fall by the Stroke of *Death*. The soft Embraces of those sweet Arms, will refresh your Souls, and ease the bitterest Pains that your outward Man may feel. And not the least Pain, not the least Sickness you may endure, to bring down your mortal Frame; but will serve as a *Foil*, to set off that immortal Glory you shall enter upon; In *EMANUEL's Land*, where the Inhabitant shall not say, *I am sick*. There I shall shortly meet you. — And let us remember, that *Death* comes to us as a *Blessing*. *Death* to us, will be an Entrance into *Life*. We shall never be free from Sin, perfectly holy, nor fully happy, we shall never be as we would, nor should be; till we see *JESUS* as He is. — I remember you before the Lord; and beg your Prayers for me: Who with a Heart brimful of Love and Duty, subscribe, my honour'd Parents,

Your most obedient Child,

L E T T E R V.

To Mr. F — o.

Dear Sir,

I Hope that your dear Soul grows in Grace, and in the Knowledge of *CHRIST*. That you see more of your own Miseries and Wants, as a poor *Sinner*; and rejoice in the Mercies, Merits and Fulness of the glorious *SAVIOUR*. Oh blessed be God, our dear Lord *Jesus*, is just such a Saviour as we need! His precious *Blood*, cleanseth us from all Sin: His glorious *Righteousness*, clothes our naked Souls: And

And his inexhaustible *Fulness* of Grace and Glory, will maintain and perfect our *Graces*, and give us the full Enjoyment of *Glory*, in and with him, unto Ages without End ! Oh let us come daily to our dear Lord Jesus, and commit our Souls into his Hands, to be saved to the uttermost. He *can*, and *will* save us. He is in *Office* to save us, as our Prophet, Priest and King. And *has* given us his great Word of Promise, That the Soul that *cometh unto him*, *he will in no wise cast out*. Our Lord saveth *Sinners*. He delights to save. He will not upbraid us with the Number, the Greatness, the Aggravation of our Sins. For, *tho' we have done as evil Things as we could* ; yet he saith, *Return again unto me*. Oh dear Sir, This is the Voice of GOD our SAVIOUR, of the LORD, the LORD GOD, *Merciful and Gracious : Forgiving Iniquity, Transgression and Sin !* And oh how abundant is he, in his *Goodness and Truth*, towards poor Sinners ! Our dear Lord, is a *Friend of Publicans and Sinners*. A loving, tender *Friend*, an omnipotent, faithful *Friend*, the only, and everlasting *Friend* of Sinners. *This MAN, CHRIST, receiveth Sinners, and eateth with them*. The SAVIOUR *receives Sinners*, to save them from all their *Sins*. He receives them freely, fully, and perpetually, into his own All-gracious and Almighty Hands. To heal their Wounds, to bind up their Sorrows, to beautify their Souls, to keep them from Falling, and to present them Faultless before the Presence of *His*, and of his *Father's* Glory, with exceeding Joy ! And oh how *familiar* doth the dear SAVIOUR, delight to be with the Chief of Sinners, that see their Misery, and prostrate their Souls at his Feet, to find Mercy ! He not only receives them to the Glory of God, to save them from endless Misery, unto eternal Glory, with all the infinite Grace, with the boundless Compassions of a GOD : But he rejoiceth over them, thus to do them Good, with his whole Heart, and with his whole Soul : He *eateth* with them ; He makes a Feast for them, and feasts with them, saying, *Eat, O Friends, drink, yea, drink abundantly, O Beloved*. Thus kindly doth the great SAVIOUR, invite the Chief of *Sinners*, to feed upon himself, as the sacrificed LAMB, to drink deep Draughts of his bottomless, boundless, endless Love, which is infinitely better than Wine : To receive

ceive all Salvation-Blessings in and with him, unto eternal *Life* by him, altho' to procure the same for us, he poured out his Soul unto *Death*! And oh the hearty *Welcome*, the kind Appellations that he gives us: *Eat, O Friends, drink, yea, drink abundantly, O Beloved!* As if he should say, 'You are heartily *welcome* to all Grace and Life, thro' my Love and Death: Come, take your Fill freely: You have all Salvation in me, with me, with all my Heart, with all my Soul. Joy and rejoice in and with me: I joy and rejoice with you, for all *your Blifs.*' — And lo, he doth not say, 'Come, you *Enemies*, that have pierced me to the Soul with your Sins; come take the Blessings of Life, procur'd for you by my Death: But, Eat, O *Friends!* I forgive all your Heart-Enmity against me, and all the woful Fruits of it in your Lives, wherein you have behav'd like *Enemies* to me. I am *your Friend* indeed: I dy'd for you when *Enemies*. I have reconcil'd you *in*, and will reconcile you *to* myself, by my Death, perfectly. And now, I call you no more *Enemies*, but *Friends*. I esteem you so really, I call you so cordially. An everlasting Friendship is begun, shall be perfected and maintained, between you and me. Little do you think, what a *Friend's Heart*, I have towards you: Nor how greatly as *my Friends*, I rejoice over you! Eat, O *Friends!* — Drink, yea, drink abundantly, O *Beloved!* I don't call you, *The People of my Wrath*, even you that are the Chief of *Sinners*, who come in at my Call, to feast upon my Flesh and Blood; but the *Children of my Love*. Come, drink *abundantly*: You have all *freely*. You can never drink my Love, my Life, the Well of your Salvation *dry*: Nor think, what an infinite Spring of Blifs, I, in my infinite Love, will be unto you, who are by me, so infinitely *beloved!*' — Thus heartily doth the SAVIOUR *welcome Sinners*, Thus freely doth he *receive them*, and thus kindly *addresses them!* — And since our Lord, the Friend of Sinners, delights to be thus gracious to them, and familiar with them; let us then, encouraged by his Love, Blood and Fulness, approach his Presence freely, with all our Wants continually: *To receive Mercy, and find Grace to help in every Time of Need.* — Wishing a Life of joyful Communion with

with God ; a growing Conformity to Christ ; a fruitful Life on Earth, to his Honour ; and a weighty Crown of Glory with him in Heaven : I remain, Dear Sir,

Your very affectionate Friend and Servant,

In our Glorious LORD,

LETTER VI.

To Mrs. W——r.

My Dear Sister in Christ,

I Hear, that you have been *afflicted*. I doubt not, you can say, That this Affliction has been *good* for you. It was sent, my dear Sister, as the Lord's Messenger, to bring you a Token of your Father's Love. It was sent to be managed by the Lord's Hand, for the Trial of your Graces, and to meeten you for Glory. I hope you receiv'd it with Humility, Submission and Thankfulness. That you neither *despis'd the Chastening of the Lord, nor fainted when rebuked of him*. Because of his infinite Love, *shed abroad in your Heart by the Holy Ghost* : Which, like strong Wine, supported your Spirit. It is good for us to endure Chastening. *Behold, saith the Apostle James, we count them happy which endure*. And, *Blessed is the Man that endureth Temptation ; for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him*. Oh my dear Sister, let us love and adore our GOD in *every Thing*. He loveth and blesteth us in *all Things*. In Bitters, in Sweet, in Comforts, in Crosses. All Things, wisely mixed, and graciously over-ruled, together work for God's Glory, and our Advantage ; both present and eternal. Oh happy, thrice happy, are the People whose God is the LORD ! Happy are they in all Cases, happy at all Times. Because GOD their Happiness, is present with them, hath the Care of them, and will never leave them, nor forsake them. The LORD being *our Shepherd, we shall not want* : Feeding, Leading, Healing. Our Souls, our Bodies are his Care. *As the Heaven*
is

is high above the Earth : So great is his Mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the East is from the West : So far hath he removed our Transgressions from us. Like as a Father pitieth his Children : So the LORD pitieth them that fear him. His Bowels yern towards us, whenever he useth his Rod upon us. But when he sees that we need it ; his Love will not let us want it. So great is his Grace ! Nor will he let us be always under Chastisement. His Anger endureth for a Moment : But in his Favour there is Life. The Life of all our Joys, abides in his Love, as the Water of the Stream, abides in the Fountain, is derived from it, and maintained by it. Little Interruptions of his manifestative Favour, we must expect here ; tho' there is not the least, in the infinite Love of his Heart. But Goodness and Mercy in their native Displays, in various, plenteous, lasting Streams, shall follow us all the Days of our Life, through Time ; and waft us into the Ocean of Love, Life and Glory, where we shall have full Joys, to a long Eternity. — I commit you to the tender Love and Care, of your dear Lord Jesus ; and in him, my dear Sister, I am,

Yours very affectionately,

L E T T E R VII.

To Mr. H——d.

My very dear Brother, in our sweet LORD JESUS,

Gladly I embrace the first Moment's Leisure to write to you. — Kindly I thank you for yours. I am glad the Lord puts it into your Heart to long to hear from me. I hope he designs to send some Refreshment to your dear Soul, by so weak, so vile a Worm. Oh my Brother, if our dear Lord would carve you a Portion from his own Table, and put it into my poor, empty, tottering Hand ; how gladly, in his Strength would I run to bring it you ! I feel that I *love you* in the Bowels of JESUS CHRIST ; but it is HE only can *fill you*. And fill you he *will*, brimful of Grace and Glory, in his own Time. *If the LORD had been pleased to destroy you,*

you, my Brother, *he would not have shewed you these Things.* He would not have shewed you the Depth of your Misery by Sin, the Insufficiency of your own Righteousness; and the Excellency of CHRIST; in his glorious Person, and all-sufficient Fulness, as a compleat SAVIOUR: To raise your Estimation of HIM, as the *Chiefest among ten Thousand*, and to put you upon the Search after him, as *your Beloved*. CHRIST was prepar'd on purpose for you, my Brother; and you are prepar'd for the Knowledge of Him. And what then shall *binder* your Enjoyment of him, thro' Time and to Eternity? I am sure it is not the Greatness of your Sin, by Nature or Practice, that can do it, tho' of all Sinners, you was the very *Chief*. It is a *faithful Saying*, (you may venture your Soul, and eternal All upon it) *That Jesus Christ came into the World to save Sinners, chief Sinners!* And how *worthy is this of all Acceptation!* Will you *accept it*, my Brother? Will you as a most miserable Sinner, cast yourself down at the SAVIOUR's Feet, and say, 'Lord I take Thee, as the Father's Gift to the Chief of Sinners: I lay hold on Thee, as held out to the Hand of my Faith, in the free Promise of the glorious Gospel, for the very *vilest* of all.' If you *will have* CHRIST, my Brother, you *may*, you *shall*. Oh never stand hesitating, whether the SAVIOUR is for you! and whether your *Sins* will not shut you out from the SAVIOUR's Arms! But stretch out the Hand of Faith, and take him as a *free Gift* to the Chief of Sinners. You can but be the *Chief*. As such then *receive him*, only *receive him*, and he is *Yours* for ever. Flee into the SAVIOUR's open Arms, and say, 'Lord, I am such a miserable Sinner, that I shall sink into the lowest Hell, if thou dost not save me, if thou dost not open wide thy merciful Arms, and let me into thy Self, and all thy Grace. And I have heard what *Wonders* thy Love and Blood have wrought, in saving *Manasseh, Paul and Magdalen*. I have heard likewise, That thou art *able to save to the uttermost*, even *all them that come unto* GOD by Thee. LORD JESUS, save me! Glorify the Infinity of thy Grace, in my deep Unworthiness! The Imensity of thy Mercy, in forgiving my great, numberless, and aggravated Transgressions! And the Omnipotence of thy Power, in my utmost Weakness! Lord, shew what a

‘ Wonder thou canst work in saving such a great Sinner, from all Misery, unto all Glory ! And Heaven shall for ever ring with thy Praises.’ — Oh cast yourself down at JESUS Feet, all over-spread with the Leprosy of Sin, from Head to Foot, no Part clean, and say, ‘ Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.’ And the compassionate SAVIOUR, will stretch out his Hand of Power and Grace, give you a saving Touch, and will say, with an all-efficacious Voice, ‘ I Will: Be thou clean.’

I make no doubt, my Brother, that you have already *believ’d* on the Lord Jesus, and that the Actings of your Faith towards him, have frequently been after this Manner. And *as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.* Your Comfort-Life depends on it. We pinch and starve our Souls, by staying at Home in Self-wretchedness; instead of going out daily, upon every Conviction of Want to the CHRIST of GOD, to possess that full and everlasting Salvation, provided and exhibited in him, for the Chief of Sinners. Oh my Brother, whenever you are afraid, whenever your Heart trembles because of your *Sins*, venture in to CHRIST instantly. Stand not to hold a Parley with Sin and Satan, whether you shall *believe* or not? But say as *Esther*, *I will go in unto the King; — and if I perish, I perish.* And CHRIST will hold out the Scepter of his Grace, for you to *touch* and *live*. Let your Acts of Faith on JESUS, be like Wave upon Wave, rowling apace after one another. *Haste, haste* you into the Bosom of CHRIST. *Flee apace* unto HIM, your strong, your glorious City of Refuge, the only Hope set before you in the glorious Gospel. It is *ill* abiding without, to hear the Threats of Pursuers that seek your Life, and will have the Blood of all, that get not into CHRIST by Faith. And tho’ you have already *believ’d* in JESUS, and so your *State* is *safe*; yet if you forsake your Resting-place, and wander into the forbidden Grounds of doubting and Despair; the Pursuers will be after you, a dreadful *Sound* will be in your Ears, and your *Life*, to you, will seem to hang in *Suspense*. Wherefore get by Faith into CHRIST, your quiet, full, and glorious Habitation.

And whenever you come to CHRIST for Life, or look to JESUS for Salvation; believe that he will *give you of the Fountain*

Fountain of the Water of Life freely ; and that you shall be saved, merely because HE has said it, who is GOD, and cannot lie, deceive, change, or repent ? So shall your Joy be full, and your Holiness great. So shall your Soul be marvellously strengthened in your Conflict with the Powers of Darkness, if you thus march boldly on against them, under the Banner of the SAVIOUR'S LOVE.

Glad am I, to see you so sensible that you are a *Sinner*, a *great Sinner*. That you know a *little* of CHRIST, and pray for further Teachings. And that you esteem it a Favour above all Things, to have this Petition put up for you, ' GOD be merciful to such a Sinner ! ' Oh my dear Brother, be not dismayed because you are such a *great Sinner*. For your JESUS is a *Great SAVIOUR* ! HE is *mighty to save* ! It's well you know a *little* of CHRIST : For that Knowledge is *saving*. In that you have *eternal Life* ! And tho' you know *but* a little of CHRIST, you are Interested in his *Great SELF*, and all his infinite Fulness ! CHRIST, and all his Grace are *yours* ! — What are your *Sins* then, tho' *red, like Scarlet and Crimson* ? In the Virtue of his *GOD-like Blood*, they shall be *white as Snow and Wooll* ! What is the *Guilt* of Sin, before the SAVIOUR'S *All-attoning Blood* ! What is its amazing *Filth*, before this *cleansing Fountain* ! What is its mighty, turbulent Strength, before the SAVIOUR'S *Sin-subduing Arm* ! Aye, and what is the *Being* of Sin, its rooted Fixation in our Nature, before the *All-destroying Power*, and *All-perfecting Grace* of CHRIST ! That will sanctify us wholly, Soul, Body and Spirit, and set us blameless and faultless, without Spot or Wrinkle, or any such Thing, perfect in Holiness, to its Height and Glory, before *His*, and his *Father's* Face for ever ! Oh my Brother, Sin shall never be too hard for the *Grace* of CHRIST ! Grace shall *reign* over Sin, until it is utterly destroy'd ! Until all *Mortality*, Sin and all the Effects of it, respecting both our Souls and Bodies, shall be *swallowed up of Life* ! — But my Brother, such is the infinite Fulness of the LORD our SAVIOUR, that the greatest of mortal Saints, know but *little* of his Glory ! The one *Half*, the ten *thousandth Part*, has never yet been *told us* ! Yea, the SAVIOUR'S Fulness and Riches, are absolutely *Unsearchable* ! A Mine of immense

Treasure, a vast SEA of GLORY, that can never be emptied, nor bottom'd, by Saints and Angels to the Days of ETERNITY!—And lo, the Mercy of GOD in CHRIST, is infinite! It is JEHOVAH's Mercy! It is HIMSELF resolving to be merciful! And can you spend it, my Brother? Can you draw it dry, with your Thousands and Ten Thousands of Wants? No, no; the innumerable Multitude of saved Sinners, that have been, or shall be saved even to the World's End, can never sink the GODHEAD *one Hair's Breadth*! They may draw Water continually, drink, and drink their Fill, out of this Well of Salvation, and still it will be as Full, as Deep, as All-overflowing as ever! Oh my Brother, put your Trust under the Shadow of JEHOVAH's Wings: And you shall see that his Mercy is upon you from Everlasting to Everlasting!—The Love of God our Father, the Grace of Christ, and the Comforts of the Holy Ghost be with you. Amen. As enabled, I shall make mention of you before the LORD: And remember, dear Sir,

Yours most Affectionately in JESUS,

L E T T E R VIII.

To Mr. L—s.

My dear Brother in CHRIST,

I Rejoice that GOD who commanded the Light to shine out of Darknefs, hath shined in your Heart, to give you the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of GOD in the Face of JESUS CHRIST. Out of CHRIST, GOD is a Consuming Fire; and we, Sinners, can no more stand before him than dry Stubble, before a devouring Flame. But in CHRIST, all the Glories of the GODHEAD shine, in the bright Form of LOVE! GOD is the GOD of Peace, to every poor Sinner that draws nigh to him thro' the LAMB's Blood. Fury is not in HIM, unto such Souls. All the essential Perfections of JEHOVAH, are on their Side, engag'd by his infinite LOVE, to fulfil its glorious Design, in their compleat Salvation: The Glory of
GOD

GOD therefore, may well be said to be in the *Face*, in the Person of CHRIST; for there it is fully, resplendently, and will be eternally display'd. And the *Knowledge* of the Glory of GOD, the GOD of all Grace, which casts its refulgent Rays thro' the sent SAVIOUR, on the Chief of Sinners, when GOD shineth to give it in their Hearts, must needs be a Life-giving, an All-surpassing, a glorious, marvellous LIGHT!—Oh my Brother, What Grace is it, that ever the least Beam of this Glory, should dart into *our Souls*! Should shine into *our Hearts*, out of that thick, that total Darkness, which Sin had cover'd us with! 'Tis *Light of Life*: Life out of Death, Life that will swallow up Death; and spread its Glories over all, unto the fair bright DAY, of Light and Life, perfect and eternal! Oh how rich, free, and distinguishing is JEHOVAH's Grace unto *us*, that the LORD should thus arise upon *us*, unto Light of Life; while *Thousands* round about *us*, sit in Darkness and the Shadow of Death! We, as our Lord, must say, *Even so Father, for so it seemed good in thy Sight.* — I am glad you feel the sweet Influence of GOD's Heart-enlarging Love. Oh may we feel it more and more, until we are deliver'd from all Straitness, and brought into the full and glorious Liberty, reserved for the Sons of GOD! — Indeed my Brother, it is a very great Blessing, to *see* the Plague of our own Hearts; to have a quick and painful *Sensation* of the Being and Working of *indwelling Sin*, and earnest *Longings*, and inexpressible *Groanings* wrought in our Souls, after a full and eternal *Freedom* from it. For not a Soul that doth experience these Things, but hath received the blessed Comforter, and felt his blessed Operations, is prepared for strong Consolation, and shall be a Partaker of present, and everlasting Salvation thro' JESUS CHRIST.

Little Crosses we must meet with, my Brother, from our Father's dear Children, our Shepherd's dear Sheep and Lambs. But what are these to that *great Cross*, which our Lord once bore for us! And what are the *little Trials* we meet with now and then from our *Brethren*, to those *great Ones* which our Lord meets with from *us*, and from all his *own*, scatter'd over the whole Earth, every Day, Hour and Moment! And what are our *little Trials* to our Great LORD, for
whose

whose Sake we are call'd to bear them ! Once more, What are our *little Crosses*, our light, momentary Afflictions, to that *great Crown*, that *far more exceeding and eternal Weight of Glory*, for which by them we shall be prepared ! All our *Sufferings*, as well as our Faith and Joy, are *Gifts* of our Father's Love. *It is given us on the Behalf of Christ, not only to believe, but also to suffer for his Sake.* — Then let us receive all our grieving Things from the Hand of God thankfully ; and ask for Grace to endure them meekly and patiently, and to improve them wisely and faithfully. For not the least *Evil* we thus receive from God, endure from Men, and improve to the Glory of Christ, but shall be to our present and eternal *Advantage*. — Oh my Brother, if Christ bears with so *much* Unkindness from us daily, shan't we bear with the *little* we now and then meet with from our Brethren ? If our Lord forgives us *ten thousand Talents*, shall not we forgive our Brother an *hundred Pence* ? — We have need to say, *Lord, increase our Faith !* If we had more *Faith*, we should have more *Love* to Christ and His ; *bear* all Things for his sake and theirs ; *show forth* his Meekness and Gentleness, Goodness and Kindness to all ; *Glorify Him* in all, and receive *Good* by all, unto a rich Increase of Grace in this World, and great Glory in that which is to come. — *The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit.* In HIM I am,

Ever Yours,

LETTER IX.

To Mr. and Mrs. W——s,

Ever dear and honour'd Parents,

OH what an unspeakable Privilege is it, that our JESUS never forgets us ! His Eye is upon us, his Care is over us, and his Love is always in an infinite Flame towards us. Well he *sees* all our Griefs, and *knows* our Sorrows. Not with a regardless Eye, an unaffecting Notice. But seeing,

seeing, he *sees*, and knowing, he *feels*, unto an inexpressible Sympathy, and an infinite Resolve of Mercy, to bring us full and glorious Deliverance, by his Wonder-working Arm. Our dear compassionate Lord, makes every trying Case of *ours*, as it were his *own* by Sympathy; and thence to us as his, he shews the richest Mercy. And never shall we want Mercy in the *Stream*, while Mercy in the *Fountain* endures. So long as *Christ* abides, a *merciful High Priest over the House of God*, while the Name of *Jesus*, our everlasting Father, is *Jehovah merciful*, and the Mercy of his *Heart* endures, who is the eternal I AM; the House of GOD, the Children of JESUS, can never want the Mercies of his *Hand*, in that Manner, Measure and Time, which infinite Wisdom sees best. — No, my dear Parents, let us *fear the LORD and his Goodness*; for there is *no Want to them that fear Him*. Let us go on to *hope and trust* in him, and to *wait* for him; and we shall not be *ashamed*. Early will the Lord *satisfy* us with his *Mercy*, and supply all our *Need* according to his own Riches in *Glory*. — Unto the LORD, the LORD God, *merciful and gracious*, — I commit you, and requesting your Prayers, I subscribe, my honoured Parents,

Your most Dutiful Child,

LETTER X.

To Mr. P — ll.

My beloved Brother,

I **H**an't Time to write as I would. But a Hint I wou'd fain give you, as to what you wrote in your last to Mr. T—y. You desir'd him 'To thunder out the *Law* to you, if he knew how.' — Oh dear Sir, What, so great a *Sinner*, as you see yourself to be; and want to lie at *Sinai's Mount*? Can you bear its fiery *Flashes*? Can you endure its roaring *Thunder*? Don't you remember the *Terror* which attended the giving of the *Law*? How the People, when they saw the *Thundrings and Lightnings, the Noise of the Trumpet, and*
the

the Mountain-smoking; removed, and stood afar off? And that so terrible was the Sight, that even Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake? Oh, a Sinner, cannot meet God at Sinai, but must meet Death. Our God, is there a consuming Fire, and we as dry Stubble, that cannot stand before him. Oh my dear Friend, would you run into the Fire? Know you not, that the Flashes of God's fiery Indignation thro' the Curses of a broken Law, would consume you? That the Thunder-bolts of his flaming Wrath, would strike you dead?

‘Aye, you will say, I know, that my Heart cannot endure, nor my Hands be strong, if God was to deal with me, a miserable Sinner, according to his righteous Law. I don't want to abide for ever under the Terrors of the Law: But only to lie at the Foot of Sinai, to hear its Thunders, till I thoroughly know my Misery as a Sinner, and my Heart is turn'd against every Sin.’

Oh dear Sir, The Terrors of the Law, will sooner make you run away from GOD, than turn your Heart from Sin; tho' they are useful to convince of Sin. Nothing but the Grace of the Gospel, can set the Heart against Sin, and win the Soul to GOD.

You say, Sir, ‘You have never been under the Law?’

It is a Mistake. You have heard what Things the Law saith, till your Mouth is stopped, you are become guilty before God; and acknowledge his Justice, if he was to send you down to Hell. Thus you have heard the Law in its Curses; and say, they are righteous. You have likewise heard it in its Requirements; and dare not meet it with your own imperfect Obedience, as your justifying Righteousness; but desire to be cloathed with Christ's Obedience. Thus, by the Law, in the Hand of the Spirit, have you been prepared for the Gospel. And unto you that see and groan under your own Misery as a Sinner, unto you, I say, the SAVIOUR is given, unto you, all the Grace of the Gospel belongs. — Come, dear Soul, come into the Wounds of the once-bleeding LAMB! Hear the Grace, the Peace, which they proclaim to you. These will give you the deepest Conviction of Sin's exceeding Sinfulness; will make it most hateful in your Sight; will strengthen your Soul to wage War against it;

it ; and in the End will give you a complete *Victory* over it. — *Great Grace be with you !* I am, dear Sir,

Yours most Tenderly in JESUS,

LETTER XI.

To Mr. C——ns.

My dear Brother in Christ,

YOURS I receiv'd ; I thank you for it. It brought glad Tidings to my poor Soul. Much I rejoice in *your Salvation*. And most humbly and thankfully, I adore that infinite *Grace*, which made my poor Labours, a *Means* of your Awakening, and Enlightning in the Knowledge of CHRIST ; and of bringing you out of Darknefs and Bondage, into the glorious Light, and joyful Liberty of the Sons of GOD. *This is the LORD's Doing ; and it is marvellous in my Eyes*. Oh how *richly* hath my Lord rewarded my *poor Labours !* Your being brought to adore Free-Grace, and the Mystery of Eleſting Love *hereby*, to a comfortable Knowledge of your Interest in CHRIST, and to the *Enjoyment* of sweet Freedom in HIM ; is ſuch a *Reward* of my Work, that is and will be the Matter of my Joy in God, and Thankſgivings to him, unto *Ages without End !* Oh *Grace, Grace !* My *Labour* has not been in vain in the Lord ! Oh that I may *always abound in his Work !* May *this*, with every other of his Love-cords, *bind me !* The Lord knows, I have *aim'd* ſingly at his Glory, and the Good of Souls, in all my Attempts to liſp out the Grace of GOD in CHRIST. And therefore my Joy is *full*, when I hear of any Honour brought to his great Name, and any Advantage to precious Souls thereby. I think it well worth the while, to labour for my Lord, in his delightful Work, were it to a *Methuſalah's* Age, to win *one Soul* to JESUS ; to reſreſh and comfort *any* of his dear Sheep and Lambs. But oh, with how many *rich*, and *royal* Rewards, doth the Prince of Grace, crown the *weak*, and *ſhort* Labours of his moſt vile, and unworthy

D

Worm,

Worm, whom he delights to favour ! Oh had I a thousand Hands, and a thousand Lives ; CHRIST and *His* should have them all. The LAMB that has bought me with his Blood, is infinitely *worthy*, of ten thousand, thousand Times more Service, and Glory than *I can give* ! And yet, in infinite condescending Grace, he accepts my *little Mite* !

Oh my *dear Child*, you have a *Father*, that loves you *infinitely* ! That lov'd you *eternally*, before Time, or Sin enter'd ! That lov'd, that loves you *unchangeably* ! That gave *Himself* for you, in Love unknown, *freely*, when in his Fore-View, an Enemy ; That has given you his *Holy Spirit*, that has forgiven *all your Sins*, that has lov'd you into Communion with him in the *Life of Grace* ; and will love you as his *own*, thro' all Deaths and Dangers, to be for ever with him in the *Life of Glory* ! — God the Father, Christ's Father, and your Father, lov'd and chose you of *old*, from the free, sovereign good Pleasure of his own Will. He gave you to Christ, to be redeemed by him, and saved to the uttermost. — God the Son, lov'd and bought you with his *Blood*, from Sin and Misery, to Grace and Glory. He has given you a Right of full Deliverance from the former, and of full Possession of the latter. — And God the Holy Ghost, has lov'd and *quickned* you, when dead in Sins, to a new Life, in and with Christ ; and will maintain and increase it, until all *Sin and Death*, is swallow'd up in the Victory of *Life eternal*. The Three-One God, *loveth you*. Embraceth you in the Arms of *Everlasting Love* ; hath done, doth and will do, thro' Time, and to Eternity ! None of all your Enemies, either within or without, shall ever pluck you out of your SAVIOUR's Hands. *Neither Death, nor Life, nor Angels, nor Principalities, nor Powers, nor Things present, nor Things to come, nor Height, nor Depth, nor any other Creature, shall be able to separate you from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* — What have you then to do, my dear Child, but to *commit* the Keeping of your Soul, continually, in Well-doing, unto HIM on whom you have believed ? And to *love* the God of Love ; in all holy Obedience, until, *holy and without Blame, before God in Love, you appear with CHRIST in Glory* !

I rejoice that you are join'd in Society with the *Saints*,
got

got to your *own Company*, and live joyfully, under the bright Shine of a Gospel-Ministry. Great Grace be with you ! Great Glory awaits you ! Live and walk as the *Redeemed of the LORD*. As one that is called into *Fellowship* with Saints, with Angels, with GOD himself, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost ! Oh may the great Delights of your *present Feast* on heavenly *Manna*, continue and increase, until the superior Glories, and ineffable Sweetness of your *everlasting Feast* come on ! When you shall sit down at the *Marriage-Supper of the Lamb*, never to rise up from Table more ! Of which your present Feast, is a sweet *Foretaste*, a most sure *Earnest* ! — Into the Arms of CHRIST I commit you, my *little Child* ; to be kept from the Evil of the World, sanctify'd thro' the Truth, and nourish'd up in Faith, unto *eternal Life*. Oh may you be honour'd to know, to love and serve CHRIST, much in *this present World* ! And may you shine forth in his Glory, as a bright Star for ever and ever, in the World to come ! So prays, my dear Brother,

Yours most affectionately, in our
Glorious LORD the LAMB,

L E T T E R XII.

To Mr. W——s.

My dear Brother,

I Should rejoice to hear from you. I hope your Soul prospers, that you grow in *Grace*, and in the *Knowledge of CHRIST*. *Whose you are, and whom I trust*, you desire to serve, more and better daily. As for me, I have been, I am, a Favourite of Heaven, tho' the *least* of Saints, and the *Chief* of Sinners. Bless and adore the Lord, for all his Grace, to vile, unworthy me. And pray for me, that I may love *Him* who first loved, who will always love me. Oh the infinite *Freeness* of GOD's Love ! Had he look'd for Qualifications, for my *Goodness* ; it had never been fix'd on me. I have been *rebellious* against the LORD, ever since I

had a Being. Aye, and ever since he brought me out of *Egypt's Land*. And well he *foreknew* how rebellious and ungrateful I should prove, and how *treacherously* I should deal with *him*. And yet he resolv'd to *love me freely* ! Thus he has lov'd me hitherto ; and thus he will love me even unto the End. And when he has lov'd me into perfect *Likeness* to him, into the Image of his own Love ; then I will love him *perfectly* and *for ever*. Now I *groan*, I lament, it is the greatest Burden my Soul feels, that I love my God *so little* ! That I *have* lov'd, that I *do*, that I *can* love him so little ! Oh wretched me ! Who shall deliver me from the Body of this Death ! From this Heart-Enmity against God, which sadly works in my corrupt Nature ! Thanks be to God thro' *Jesus Christ* ! There my Victory is compleat, my Deliverance is wrought out ; and thence to *me*, a full, a free, an everlasting Salvation shall come. Help me by your Prayers, for much of the Holy Spirit, that I may glorify my own God, the God of *Love*, in doing and suffering his whole Will, as becomes a dear Child of his, in this little Inch of Time which may remain to me.

For yourself, my dear Brother, abide in CHRIST by Faith daily ; cleave unto him in Love continually ; walk in every Path of Duty cheerfully ; watch against Sin earnestly ; and with All-prayer, pray without ceasing perpetually. That you lose not your Opportunities of glorifying God upon the Earth, and fall not into Temptations to his Dishonour. Both which will grieve you exceedingly, when your Time is almost gone, and blest Eternity is coming on. Oh how happy should we be, if we liv'd every Day, as if it was our last Day ! And was as careful to improve all our Time for God, as we shall wish we had done, when Time with us shall be no more ! — Wishing all Grace, unto all Glory : I remain, my dear Brother,

Yours most Affectionately,

LETTER

L E T T E R XIII.

*To Mr. W——rd.**My dear Brother in Christ,**Grace unto you, and Peace be multiplied, from God our Father,
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

YOURS I receiv'd ; I thank you for sending a Line to poor me. If the Lord will please to send you any Thing by *me*, I shall rejoice. There is not a Drop of Refreshment in any Creature, unless the LORD fills it. And if a Creature is ever so full in itself, and labours ever so much to communicate to others ; not one Drop of Comfort can we receive thereby, unless the LORD gives it. Which should teach us, an entire Dependance upon GOD, for all the Supplies we want ; and Ascription of Glory to him, when he extends his Grace unto us, which Way soever it flows.

I rejoice, That you have a painful *Feeling* of that Body of Sin which dwelleth in you, of your old, corrupt Nature, receiv'd from the old *Adam*. This is a *Sensation*, that none have, but those who are *new Creatures in Christ*. — And as all your Hope of eternal Salvation, is fix'd alone, upon the rich, free, sovereign Grace of God in CHRIST ; it is *good Hope*. A Hope that will not fail, of which you shall not be ashamed. That same *Free-Grace*, which wrought the Grace of *Hope* in your Soul, and which is the *Object* of your Hope, will maintain your Hope, and give you all hoped-for Blessings, freely, fully and eternally.

I am glad that you have a Desire to die for Christ, (if he calls you to it) and with his People, rather than to enjoy the Pleasures of Sin for a Season. This *Desire* of your Heart, your Lord will call your *Kindness* to him. And however weak it be, he will not *break the bruised Reed*, nor *quench the smoking Flax* : But bind up and strengthen your weak Grace, and nourish and increase it into a pure Flame.

And as to that Fear of *Falling*, of denying your Lord with Oaths and Curses, rather than *die* for him ; that fruitless Fear which torments your Heart : It flows from the Workings of remaining Unbelief, from an Aptness to live upon your own Stock, upon that little Grace which is in *you*,
rather

rather than upon those vast Stores, that immense Fulness of Grace which is in CHRIST. — Oh my dear Brother, What, *afraid*, that you shall not hold out, because you feel so little Strength in *yourself*? You have forgotten where your *great Strength lieth*. Not in *yourself*; but in the LORD! In the LORD JEHOVAH, in whom there is *everlasting Strength*. Even in HIM, who as the *Creator of the Ends of the Earth*, *fainteth not, neither is weary*. JEHOVAH-JESUS, is your *Strength*. And can you spend those vast Treasures that are in HIM? Can you draw the Well of Salvation dry, with your thousands, and ten thousands of Wants? Millions of needy Souls, with innumerable Wants, have been supply'd from thence; and still the Well of Life is as full as ever! CHRIST is as full for *you*, my Brother, as he was for the first needy Soul that ever came unto him. Oh come, poor, weak Thing, and lie down by Faith in the Bosom of your own Lord Jesus, in the Bosom of that infinite Fulness, that everlasting Strength which is in HIM; and take an holy Ease, from all anxious Thought and perplexing Fear, because of the little Strength which is in *you*! ‘Can you by taking Thought, add one Cubit to your Stature?’ Why will you thus depart from the LORD your Rest, to launch forth into a Sea of Trouble? What, *fear*, because you have so *little Strength*? Alas! If you had as much Strength of inherent Grace, as *Peter* had, when he said, ‘Tho’ I die with thee, I will not deny thee:’ If you trusted to it, as he did; you would *fail*. If you had as much Strength as perfect *Adam*; it would not be sufficient to keep you. His Will was perfect; he might have stood, if he would; but being mutable, and standing upon his own Legs; *down he fell*. If you had as much Strength as the *Angels* had in Heaven, before they sinned and became black Devils; if you trusted to it, as they did, and would none of CHRIST; *down you wou’d fall*. Why then will you stand mourning over your *little Strength*, since there is Strength enough in CHRIST, to make you stand? And all the Strength of the omnipotent JEHOVAH, in HIM, is held forth in the free Promise, as a Bosom for your weak Soul to rest in? Come, *Bow to the SAVIOUR*: He accounts it an Honour done to him, when a poor Sinner, in his utmost felt Weakness, says by Faith,

Faith, 'In the LORD have I Strength.' When he says so, by Way of Dependance upon his Fulness, and by Way of Persuasion, that he shall be supply'd from thence. Oh come, cast your Care upon CHRIST! In well-doing, commit the Keeping of your Soul unto him, as unto a faithful Creator; who will not forsake the Work of his own Hands, nor suffer the weakest Soul, that rests on *him* to fail. No; *The Youth shall faint, and young Men in Grace*, that depend upon their inherent Strength, *shall utterly fall*. But weak Souls, even such that have *no Might, that wait upon the LORD, shall renew their Strength. They shall mount up with Wings as Eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and shall not faint*, Isa. xl. 30, 31. Yield not then to perplexing Fear of Want, because you have but a few single Pocket-pence, but a little Grace, a little Strength in *you*; since all the Treasures of Grace and Strength, in our everlasting GOD, are yours in CHRIST, and to be communicated for your full Supply, in your every Time of Need. Oh my Brother, trust in the LORD, and be not afraid. For while CHRIST endures, the Soul that trusts in *Him* shall not fail. 'Because CHRIST lives, you shall live also.'

As to the Times, I think they look *troublous*. But our Lord has said, 'See that you be not troubled.' It appears to me, to be the *Midnight-State* of the Churches; and that by the late Out-pouring of the Spirit upon that dear Servant of *Christ*, Mr. *Whitefield*, and his Brethren, the *Midnight-Cry* is begun. Surely, *The Bridegroom cometh*. It is Time for the Virgins to *arise* from their carnal Security, to *trim their Lamps*, and go forth to *meet Him*. Some of us begin to *awake*, and look about us. Others are still fast *asleep*. But as the Cry grows louder, in the Ministry, and in tremendous Providences, all the *Virgins* shall be roused up, and *go forth*, with Zeal and Expectation, in all the Ways of his Appointment, to *meet the Bridegroom*. And to awaken the sleeping Saints, to some Purpose, I expect a sore Stroke upon the Churches. To be blest by the Holy Spirit, to the *Living in Jerusalem*, for their further Purity, and to prepare them for their future Glory. I think the Powers of *Antichrist*, making War with the *Lamb*, will prevail, to *scatter the Power of the holy People, for a little Season*. And that

that the LORD will *hide* the most of *his* in his *secret Chambers*, until the *Indignation* be over-past. That he will be *with those*, that may be call'd to witness for him and his Truth, even unto *Death*. And that then, the *Lion of the Tribe of Juda*, will arise, and deliver his People, and tear his Enemies in Pieces. That *Sion* shall rise and shine, and be the *Praise of the whole Earth*; and that *Babel* shall fall, never to *rise more*. The Church will be in the greatest Trouble, just before her brightest Glory. And if the Spirit of Persecution which appears in this Nation, should be the Beginning of an approaching Shower; let none of us that believe in Jesus, be distressed for fear of the Storm. Since our Lord will be with us in it, and be unto us, *An Hiding-place from the Wind, a Covert from the Tempest, as Rivers of Water in a dry Place, and as the Shadow of a great Rock in a weary Land*. And, 'When these Things begin to come to pass, saith our Lord, lift up your Heads; for the Day of your Redemption draweth nigh.' — Salute, in my Name, all the Saints with you. May *Great Grace* be upon them all! And every one of us, be *Followers of them who thro' Faith and Patience inherit the Promises*! Pray for me. The LORD be with you! In HIM, Sir, I am

Your affectionate Friend and Servant,

L E T T E R XIV.

To Mr. J. P———s.

Dear Joseph,

I Thank you for yours, I han't had Time to send you a Line till now, and am oblig'd to be short. Oh dear Child, you are straitned in *me*; but have an Infinity of Love and Grace, of Care and Tenderness, in the Heart of *Christ* towards you. The great Shepherd, loves all his Sheep and Lambs, even to the least and last, with an *infinite Love*. He watcheth over them with an *infinite Care*, and rejoiceth to do them Good, with an *infinite Joy*. Neither the Tongues of Men, nor of Angels, are able to set forth a Thousandth Part

Part of that *Dearness*, which the *least* of Christ's, stands in to *Him*. He loves the least of his Sheep, of his Brethren, of his Members, as *Himself*. — By Love *unknown*, he enclos'd them, in his Covenant Engagements with the Father, before Time had its Being, or the Mountains their Birth. — Love *unchangeable*, brought the Son of God out of the Bosom of the Father, to die for his Sheep in the Fulness of Time. Ah! what were *we*? Were we *worth* any thing? No, no; we were worthless, loveless, loathsome and abominable. Poor and miserable, wretched, blind and naked. Not Friends, but Enemies, posting on in a Course of Ungodliness, to eternal Ruin. Sin had entred, Wrath was denounced, and endless Death, just ready to swallow us up. But, oh *stupendous* Love! *Knowledge-passing* Love! The Son of God would *die* in our Room! Die we must, if *JESUS* had not given his Life, his Soul, in our Souls stead. The *good Shepherd*, saw the *Wolf coming*, just ready to devour us; and he did not *fly*, but *laid down his Life for the Sheep*. He endur'd that Death, which *we* must have suffer'd, had not *He* dy'd, that *we* might live. And this because we were his *own*, given him of the Father before the World was, and lov'd by him, with an infinite, unchangeable Love. — And from his *Love*, that was *strong as Death*, to die in our Stead, and conquer Death for us; he resolv'd to bring us to *Himself*; unto Faith in him, and Obedience to him here; and unto Glory with him hereafter. *And other Sheep I have*, saith he to the *Jews*, *which are not of this Fold; them also I must bring*. His infinite Love and Faithfulness, laid him under this *Necessity*. And describing his *Sheep*, his *called Sheep*, and their Privilege, he says, *My Sheep hear my Voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal Life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my Hand*, John x. 27, 28.

And han't you *heard Christ's Voice*? Hath he not gone after you, when running away from him, and caus'd you to hear a Voice behind you, saying, *This is the Way, walk in it*? Han't that Language of Christ to you, been after this Manner, 'Turn, O poor Sinner, I dy'd for such as *thee*. I am the *Way* to the Father; come unto *me*, and I will give thee *Rest*; walk in *me*, and I will give thee *Life*?' Yea,

hath he not said unto you in particular, *I have loved thee with an everlasting Love?* And have you not felt an Almighty Power in the Voice of Christ, that sweetly drew your Soul to Him, and engag'd you to follow after Him? If so, you are one of *Christ's Sheep*; and he will give unto you *eternal Life*, and you shall never perish, neither shall any pluck you out of his Hand. Neither Men, Sin, nor Satan. — There's an infinite Fulness of Life in Christ, who is your Life, to swallow up all that Deadness, under which you groan. Your good Shepherd, is come that you might have Life, and that you might have it more abundantly. Wherefore, seek him for it most earnestly.

And the Ordinances of Christ are his appointed Means, for the Conveyance of Life into the Souls of his dear Sheep and Lambs. There he leads them into green Pastures, and makes them lie down beside the still Waters, of Grace and Peace, to their Refreshment, Strength and Joy. And therefore, to be without the Life-giving Presence of Christ, in his publick Worship; ought to be esteem'd by us, as one of his Rebukes. As many as he loves, he rebukes and chastens; and sometimes chastens them in this Way; which calls them to the fresh Exercise of Humiliation and Repentance. — Wherefore rest not without the quickning Presence of Christ, in the Ministry of his glorious Gospel. But humble your Soul before him, and give him no Rest in private, until he is found of you in his publick Worship. Invite your Beloved to go with you. Tell him, you cannot live without him, that Ordinances, will be Wells without Water, Clouds without Rain, if HE doth not fill them. Plead his Promises, and his wonted Grace to his Own; and pray him to remember you with the Favour that he beareth unto his People, and to visit you with his Salvation: That you may see the Good of his Chosen, rejoice in the Gladness of his Nation, and glory with his Inheritance. JESUS is a Lover; and in infinite Condescension to such Worms as we, the Objects of his Love, he delights in our Love, and to have us fond of his Presence. Oh could we not be contented without our Beloved; we should not be without him. — That the Grace of Christ may be with your Spirit, to set your Soul a longing for him, and seeking after him, until you find the quickning Presence

Presence of the Lord your Life, unto your exceeding Joy ;
is the sincere Desire of

Your Friend that loves you in the Bowels of Christ,

LETTER XV.

To Mr. and Mrs. G——n.

My dear Brother and Sister.

YOU dear Children of our Father's Love, you who are dear to me in the Lamb's Love and Blood, why should we fall out in our Way to Heaven ? If I had offended you in any Thing, I would freely ask you to forgive me ; and as you have been angry with me, without Cause, I most freely forgive you, for *Jesus* Sake, who hath forgiven us. Oh dear Children, why should we be *Twain*, since *Jesus* dy'd to make us *one* in himself ? Why should we rob our Lord of the Joy of his Heart, in *not loving one another, as he hath loved us* ? Christ loves us, notwithstanding all our Peevishness and Frowardness towards him ; and so ought we to love one another. Methinks, dear Children, I could gladly wash your Feet. I feel a sweet, springing Love to you as the Lord's, and as nearly related unto me in him. And oh, what a Joy would it be to me, to ease and comfort your burden'd Minds ! To pour Oil and Wine into your wounded Spirits ! To bind and strengthen your Arms ! Oh dear Children, our gracious Father, will not cast us off, for all that we have done ! Let us return unto him, whenever we have departed from him ; for he is always the God of Peace to us, thro' the Lamb's Blood. And as such, he will bruise Satan under our Feet shortly, and sanctify us throughout, in Spirit, Soul and Body. We are under the Forgiveness of Sins. We are justify'd by Blood, and our Iniquities shall be subdu'd. God our Father, hath nothing against us, as we stand in Christ. He hath not beheld Iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen Perverseness in Israel. And shall we have any Thing against each other ? See you not the Design of the Enemy, to separate us, for whom *Jesus* bled, and pray'd, that we might

be one? Oh let our Heaven-born Souls, unite in one, *more than ever!* Let Satan get nothing by this his Attempt to bruise our *Heel*, but a greater Bruise of his own *Head*. Let him know, by our fresh *Endearments* to each other, that we are too closely *knit* by the Lamb's Blood, ever to be *seperated*.—So shall we walk before God our Father as his dear Children, unto *all pleasing*: So will our Lord have *Joy in us*: And so shall our own, and other Souls, reap *great Advantage*.—Great Grace be with you! I am

Yours affectionately in the once Bleeding LAMB,

L E T T E R XVI.

To L—s.

My dear Brother in Christ,

I Long to hear how your Soul prospers. The Lord is good to *me*, infinitely, incessantly, and will be eternally good to poor, wretched, *sinful me*. The LORD is good to *all*, in the Bounties of his Providence; his common Goodness extends itself to all the Works of his Hands. But oh, *The great Goodness*, the special, the distinguishing Goodness of God, *towards the House of Israel!* We that have found Grace in the Sight of the LORD, we that believe in JESUS, are interested in all the Goodness of JEHOVAH's Nature, in all the Goodness of his everlasting Covenant, his new Covenant of Free-Grace, thro' the Son of his Love. And confirm'd it is, even an Immensity of Goodness, or rather, the LORD himself, the immense Ocean of Goodness, to us, for our Portion, by the Blood of the sacrificed LAMB. Oh, our God has *made*, has *cut a Covenant*, and passed between the Pieces; the divided Parts of our Lord's human Nature, when the Soul of our crucify'd Jesus, was separated from his sacred Body. All the Grace that was given to us by Grant, in God's everlasting Covenant with his Son, before the World was, is confirm'd unto us as Sinners, by the LAMB's Blood. It pleased the LORD to lay on HIM, the Iniquity of *us all*, of all his Chosen; and to bruise him for our Sins, to wound

wound him for our Transgressions, to pierce him to the Soul, by the Sword of his Justice, until it was fully satisfied, compleat Payment made, and eternal Redemption obtain'd for us. — And then, lo, our Covenant-God, thro' the Peacemaking Sacrifice of his Son, became the *God of Peace* unto us. And as such, *brought again from the Dead, our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, thro' the Blood of the everlasting Covenant.* And exalted him to his own Right Hand, to save us *influentially* in our own Persons, as he had done it *mystically* in himself; to save us by *Power*, in the Application of Salvation, as he had done it by *Price*, in the Impetration, or working out of Redemption. — And this, of God's being our *own God, the God of Peace* unto us in Christ, is as the *Waters of Noah* unto him. For as he hath sworn that the *Waters of Noah* should no more go over the Earth; even so hath he sworn thro' a bleeding JESUS, that he will no more be wroth with us, nor rebuke us. — No, we that were chosen in Christ before the World began, we that were in him by Representation, when he dy'd a Sacrifice for us on the accursed Tree, and we that are now in him by Faith, that have run into the SAVIOUR'S Name, as our strong Tower; we are for ever *safe* from God's vindictive *Wrath*. There was Peace made between all the divine Perfections on our Account, for our Salvation, and Peace made for us, by the Blood of Christ's Cross. And the LAMB that made it by his Death, maintains it by his Life, while he ever liveth, by his Advocacy and Intercession, to save us to the uttermost.

Who then shall break *Friendship* between God and us? Who, or what shall *separate us* from the *Love of God* which is in *Christ Jesus our Lord*? Who shall rob us of our Portion in *JEHOVAH*? Who, or what shall *infringe, or lessen* that Ocean of Goodness, which we have in his great *BEING*, in his inviolable Covenant, in his sure Promises, which all have the *Yea*, the eternal *Yea*, and the fixed *Amen* of *GOD* upon them in *CHRIST*? Can *Satan* rob us of our Portion in *GOD*? No, the LAMB has destroy'd the Power of that roaring *Lion*. Can the *World* with all its Snares rob us of our Inheritance? No, *JESUS* has overcome it. Can *Sin*, that worst of Enemies, rob us of our *GOD*, our *CHRIST*, our Portion in
Grace

Grace and Glory ? *No* ; it is *finish'd*, Transgression is made an *End of*, in our dear dying *Lord* ; and by the Almighty Efficacy of his Death, it shall be subdu'd, and utterly destroy'd in *us*. *JESUS*, that was once *dead*, is now *alive*, and *lives for Evermore*. And *because HE lives, we shall live also*. *We* that are *dead* with him, in a begun Measure, to the Pleasures of Sin, and the sensitive Delights of this World, *we* whose Souls pant after heavenly Enjoyments ; *we* are well provided for, well secur'd, *our Life is hid with CHRIST in GOD*. While *CHRIST* abides, *we* are secure ; while *GOD* endures, *our Life* cannot be lost. This Ocean-Fulness, will flow out upon us, in various, fresh, perpetual Streams of infinite Goodness, thro' Time ; until we are waisted into *GOD* in *CHRIST*, our Sea of Goodness, to live amidst the Pleasures which are at his Right Hand, to a blest Eternity. — Oh my dear Brother, let us receive the strong Consolation by Faith, and improve it by Love, in all holy Obedience, to the Glory and Joy of our dear Lord, and to ours with him, when he appears. — *The Grace of Christ be with your Spirit*.
Pray for

Yours most affectionately in JESUS,

LETTER XVII.

To Mr. S——s.

Dear Sir,

I Greatly rejoice in the Wonders which God's Free-Grace hath wrought for poor *Plymouth*. The dear Mr. *Whitefield*, a little before his Departure from us, acquainted me in a Letter, that he had lik'd to have been *murder'd* in his Bed, at your Town. But oh how I rejoic'd to hear, afterward, that God over-rul'd this Providence, to bring many Souls under the *Sound*, and under the *Power* too, of his blessed *Gospel*, by that his dear Servant, who was so basely treated ! Who is a God like unto our *GOD* ! How wonderful are his Ways, his Ways of Providence, his Ways of Grace, towards his own chosen People ! Many of whom lay in a perishing Condition at poor *Plymouth*, cast out into the open
Field

Field of this World, among dying Souls, polluted in their own Blood, most miserable, loathsome Objects; helpless of themselves, unpity'd, and without Help from others. But lo, the God of all Grace, passed by, and being rich in Mercy, for his great Love wherewith he loved them, even when dead in Sins, he said unto them, Live! Yea, when he saw them in their Blood, in all their Nature-Defilement, by original and actual Sin, he said unto them, Live! And their Time was the Time of Love! Of Love's Manifestation, of Love's Application, of Love's Triumph over all their Enmity, to the endless Praise of its own Glory! Of its Heights, its Depths, its Lengths and Breadths, which are immeasurable and infinite! Every Way worthy of GOD! Oh then it was, that the God of all Grace, washed these his beloved Ones with Water, yea, he thoroughly washed away their Blood (their Guilt of Sin) from them. He justify'd them freely by his Grace, thro' the Sin-cleansing Blood of the Slain LAMB. He anointed them with Oil, pour'd upon them his Holy Spirit. He deck'd them with Ornaments, beautify'd their Souls with every Grace. Yea, he sware unto them, and entered into a Covenant with them, and they became his. — Oh glorious Grace, of a Sin-pardoning GOD! Oh glorious Power, of a Sin-subduing Arm! Of an Almighty, All-conquering, Soul-wooing, Soul-winning, Soul-saving Lover! Plymouth would none of Christ. But CHRIST would have some Souls in Plymouth. And oh happy they, who were made willing in the Day of his Power! — And are you, my dear Brother, among that happy Number! Oh do all you can, to love and serve your SAVIOUR! His Grace be with your Spirit. In JESUS our sweet Lord, I am, dear Sir,

Your affectionate Friend and Servant,

LETTER XVIII.

To Mrs. M——t.

My very dear Sister in Christ,

I Hope you experience, that the Lord's Goodness and Mercy, follow you hitherto. And after you still, the glorious

ous Flows thereof shall run, even all along thro' the Wilderness, until you reach *Canaan's Land*. That Land of Love, Life, Joy and Glory, into which your *Forerunner*, is for you entred. JESUS is gone up to his *Father's House*, to prepare a Place for you. And soon will he come by Death, to receive your Spirit into his own Embraces; and again at Judgment, to redeem your Body from the Grave, and to receive your whole Person to himself; to see him as he is, to be perfectly like him, and to serve him incessantly, among the Saints and Seraphs which are round his Throne. — Oh my dear Sister, the Glory of that Day hastens, when we shall all be gather'd together unto Christ, and unto one another, in and with him. *And so shall we be for ever with the Lord*. Surely our dear Lord Jesus, comes quickly. He is on his Way: He is gathering in his Chosen, in many of the dark Places, of this, and other Lands. *There is an Handful of Corn in the Earth, upon the Top of the Mountains*; (where there is not much Likelihood that Corn should grow) a few despised Instruments, who are almost every where spoken against, whom God hath raised up, to preach the Gospel of his Son Jesus, with glorious Success. *The Fruit thereof, shakes like Lebanon*. And by and by, *They of the City, shall flourish like the Grass of the Earth*. The Churches, which now generally languish, under the Withdraw of the divine Presence, Power and Glory from amongst them; shall again be revived. *Unto us among them, who fear the LORD's Name, shall He the Sun of Righteousness arise, with Healing in his Wings*. *And we shall grow up, and go forth as Calves of the Stall*. Well-fed, and fat, as living Sacrifices, *Holiness unto the LORD*. — Pray, my dear Sister, for the Peace of Jerusalem: For the Coming of our Lord's Kingdom, for the bringing on of Latter-Day Glory. For the Prosperity of the Lord's Work, which he is now about in the World; and for the Support and Success, of the poor, hunted, persecuted Labourers, which the Lord is pleas'd to make use of therein. And so will our Lord, the *Bridegroom* of the Church, call you one of his *Friends*; and the Church's Glory shall come on, as an Answer to your Prayers. — That our dear Lord Jesus, may support you and your dear Yoke-fellow, under all the Afflictions which
you

you may be called to endure; that your Strength may be equal to your Day; that you may be enabled to glorify God in the Fires, and be prepared for endless Glory, by all your present Trials; is the earnest Desire of, my dear Sister,

Yours for ever, most Affectionately,

In your LORD and mine,

L E T T E R XIX.

To Mr. F——o.

Dear Sir,

IT is indeed a Miracle of Mercy, that we, *Sinners*, are out of *Hell*; who are in ourselves, such fit Fuel for *everlasting Burnings*! But oh, *Jesus*, our Sacrifice, has endur'd the Fire of divine Wrath, that we who look to him for Salvation, might be deliver'd from the Wrath to come. — I trust, my dear Friend, that you have seen such a Need of Christ, that you must perish for ever without him. And such an Excellency in him, that he is unto you, *The Chiefest among ten Thousand*! Don't you see such a Loveliness in *Jesus*, at Times, when you get a Glimpse of his Glory, that you can say with the *Psalmist*, *Whom have I in Heaven, but Thee! and there is none upon Earth that I desire besides* (or in Comparison with) *Thee*! If so; you are a *Believer in Jesus*. For, *unto you therefore which believe, He is precious*. And as a Believer in the Son of God, you have *Christ* for your Portion, and all *Life* in and with him. *Your Beloved is yours, and you are his*. He loves you as his own, he loves you as himself. He loves you freely, infinitely, unchangeably, and will love you eternally.

Be *free* then, *very free*, with your own *Lord Jesus*. Oh come to him daily, and tell him all your Griefs. Shew before him all your Trouble, and open every Sore, that pains and afflicts you. Your *Jesus*, is a *Physician*, that well knows how to heal all your Wounds, and bind up your Sorrows. For *Skill*, there is none like him; his Understanding is *infinite*! For *Tenderness*, he is all-surpassing; his Compassions are *bottomless, boundless, endless*! And for *Power*, he can do

all Things; he is the LORD Almighty! And you cannot please him better, than to commit yourself daily into his Hands, with all your Diseases, your Soul-sicknesses, for Him to heal and cure you. Oh dear Sir, he will *rejoice*, to take you into his *Care*, and to *save you to the uttermost*. He will rejoice over you, thus to do you *Good*, with his *whole Heart*, and with his *whole Soul*. Yea, he accounts it his *Honour*, that you honour him as the great Saviour, when you come to him as a miserable Sinner, for all the Grace and Salvation you want, for Time, and for Eternity. You can't want *more*, than he has to bestow, and will rejoice to give. Oh come to *Jesus*, with all the *Wants* you are made sensible of; and when you want a *Sense* of your Misery, bring *that Want* with you also. The Fountain, *Christ*, is full and free. He will not send you *empty away*. Oh be frequent in your Acts of Faith upon Christ. *Unto whom* coming, — saith the Apostle. It is the great Work of a Believer, to come unto Christ *continually*, to *receive of his Fulness, and Grace for Grace*. Oh how *blest* are they, that abide in Christ by *Faith*! And how *sad* is our Case, when we depart from him, by an evil Heart of *Unbelief*! Oh it is *sad* walking in the World, *without Christ*! Without *Nearness* to him, and *Fellowship* with him! *They that are far from him, shall perish*; but it is good for us to draw near unto God. Let us watch and pray, that we may abide in Christ by Faith, and walk with him by Love.—And whenever we backslide from him, thro' our wicked, deceitful Hearts, the Snares of the World, and the Temptations of Satan; let us confess our Iniquity before the Lord, and instantly cry unto him, with the *Psalmist*, *I have gone astray like a lost Sheep; seek thy Servant*. And say unto our Souls, as he did, *Return unto thy Rest, O my Soul*; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. — Wishing Grace and Peace may be multiply'd unto you, thro' the Knowledge of God, and of *Jesus our Lord*: Unto his tender Love and Care, I commit you: And in Him, dear Sir, I am,

Your affectionate Friend and Servant,

LETTER XX.

To Mr. H——s.

*My very Dear and much Honour'd Brother,
Grace unto You, and Peace be multiplied.*

I Humbly thank you for your dear Letters: They refresh'd my Bowels in the Lord. Your inward Affection to me, that Fellowship you have with me in the Truth, and that Willingness which is in your dear Heart, to suffer a Child to cry *Hosanna to the Son of David!* and especially, the Hints you gave of the coming of our Lord's Kingdom, did much comfort my Soul. — May the Lord reward all your Kindness to me, an *hundred-fold* into your own Bosom!

As to myself, my Brother, I am a *poor Sinner*, sav'd by God's *Free-Grace*, according to its own Riches! Oh what Wonders has God's Free-Grace wrought for me! How has he delighted to love me! But oh, my *Unkindness* to my kind Father, breaks my Heart! I am *pained* at my very Soul, to feel the Workings of Sin in my corrupt Nature. And even *surprized* to see such a Depth of Iniquity in my vile Heart, after so long an Acquaintance with JESUS, and such abundant Displays of Grace that I have been favour'd with. And under this, I am frequently *tempted to think*, "That God will *cast me off* as to Usefulness, and use such a vile Sinner no more unto any of his dear Children." And I am sure, that if he was not God, the LORD *that changeth not*; he *would* do it. And under the Views of my own Vileness, I also find an *Aptness* to sink into Dejection of Spirit. I find it exceeding difficult to take in, and keep up a due Sight and Sense of Sin, without sinking into an unbelieving Heaviness, at such Times when I am not sensibly under those full and overflowing Tides of Love and Grace, which bear down all before them. Oh this Sin of Sins, *Unbelief!* It is the *Source* from whence all Sin *springs*, and the *Gulph* into which all Sin *flows!* Satan stirs up the Corruptions of the Heart, all seated as it were in Unbelief, and tempts God's People to *Sin*: And by the Motions of other Sins, stirring, or yielded to, either more inwardly or outwardly, he tempts them to *Unbelief*. And this is the worst Sin of all. In as much as the Soul here-

by, so far as it prevails, casts the highest *Dishonour* upon the Grace of God, and the Fulness of Christ: as if there was not *Enough* in the infinite Grace of JEHOVAH, in the infinite Merit of CHRIST's Blood and Righteousness, and in the infinite All-sufficiency of his Fulness, to *answer* the Souls Wants, and even infinitely to *exceed* them! Oh this Sin of *Unbelief*, this staying at Home in Self-wretchedness, instead of going out to Christ, and to God in him, so far as it prevails, is a tacit *Rejecting* of the SAVIOUR, and of all the Grace exhibited in him, by the glorious Gospel, for the chief of Sinners! Happy should we be, if upon every Conviction of our own Emptiness and Vileness, we pass'd the next Moment out of *ourselves*, into CHRIST, and there clos'd with the glorious Remedy provided for our miserable, helpless Souls! Oh what a God-honouring, Soul-nourishing, and comforting *Life* is a Life of *Faith on the Son of God*! All Glory be to God's Free Grace, this, in the main, is *the Life which I now live in the Flesh*! But, yet to my Grief, I feel the secret *Workings of Unbelief* in my Soul, and that I am *tempted to it*, upon the new Discoveries of my own Vileness. And under the Views hereof, I am further *tempted*, to cast off the Service of God, so far as it respects my making Mention of him unto others; after this Manner: "You see how vile you are; say no more for God, appear no further, keep Silence, unless you was better."

But oh, my dear Lord, doth not leave me to the Power of these Temptations. In infinite Grace, he forgives all my Sins, and yet employs me in his Work! He appears again and again, to find me something to *do* for him, and frequently gives me to hear, that *He does something by Me, vile Me*! even when I have said, Time after Time, *I am cast out of his Sight*! Oh *Free Love*! He shews me the horrid Nature of Unbelief, and strengthens my Soul to believe on him, for his Honour and my Joy, in the Face of a thousand Difficulties and Discouragements. And by the sweet alluring Language of his Love, He draws on my Soul to serve him in the Liberty of his dear Children, and causes me to appear for him in the Work he calls me to, with an holy Boldness, in his own Strength and Worthiness; notwithstanding all that Vileness and Unworthiness which I see in myself, and that Satan objects against me.

Oh

Oh my Brother, I see, that the *Whole* of my Salvation, in all and every of its *Parts*, stands alone upon God's rich, free, sovereign *Grace*, reigning in glorious Triumph through a crucify'd Jesus ! This *Grace* began my Salvation in Quickning me when dead in Sin ! This *Grace* has maintained and increas'd my new Life hitherto, through a Thousand Deaths and Dangers ! And this *same Grace*, will carry me safe through a World of Sin and Sorrow, into the World of Glory, in its own Everlasting Arms ! Oh help me to bless and praise my God, for his *great Grace* unto *Me* !

I Rejoyce much in our Lord's Kindness to *You* ; in that he increaseth you with all the Increases of God. In that he strengthens you with all Might by his Spirit in your inward Man, makes you valiant for his Truth upon the Earth, laborious in his Service, and abundantly successful in your Labours. Go on, my dear Brother, in the Lord's Strength to serve him. Your Service is *acceptable* to your great Master, *profitable* to his dear Children, and *delightful* to your own Soul. Your *Work* is honourable and sweet, and your *Reward* will be Great and Glorious. Oh labour hard for CHRIST, according to his Working, in your little Inch of Time ; an Eternity of Rest awaits you in his, and in his Father's Bosom ! *The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit.* I forget you not before the Lord. Pray for, Dear Sir,

Yours Affectionately in our Glorious Head,

L E T T E R XXI.

To Mr. H——d.

My beloved Brother in Christ,

GLAD was I of the Line you sent me, which signify'd your Desire to hear from me. — My Time now allow'd me to write, is very short, and I am unacquainted with your present Frame. But in the general, I find you want *Good*. Let me therefore say unto you, as *Eliphaz to Job*, *Acquaint now thyself with him* (with God in Christ) *and be at Peace: thereby Good shall come unto thee.* Oh you tender Lamb of Christ's

Christ's Fold, your *Shepherd's Heart* is concern'd for you, his *Bowels* yern towards you; and in boundless Compassion, with everlasting Kindness, will he *gather you* by the Strength of his Arm, and *carry you* safe in his Bosom, through a Land of Pits and Snares, and fiery flying Serpents, unto the Land of Rest; where *Sorrow and Sighing shall flee away, and everlasting Joy shall be upon your Head!* Your Weakness, Sickness and Diseases, shall never turn away the Heart of your Tender Shepherd from you! But having loved you with a free, infinite *Love*; his Love towards you, will draw out the *Compassions* of his Soul, so much the more, to help, relieve, and save you to the uttermost! *The whole* (says He) *need not a Physician, but they that are Sick.* Oh, JESUS CHRIST, has a special Regard to his *sick Children*, and takes a peculiar Delight in healing their Souls, and binding up their Wounds! If Christ *lose one of his Sheep*, if one of them be driven from his Fold and expos'd to imminent Danger; such are his infinite Bowels towards it, that he doth as it were *Leave the Ninety and Nine, and goeth after that which is lost until he find it. And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his Shoulder, and bringeth it Home rejoicing.* Oh my Brother, if such was your Case, that there was no Pity for you in any of the *Creatures*; you have Tenderness enough in CHRIST's Heart, a boundless endless Store, of Love-Grace, and Mercy, to relieve and solace you in all your Miseries! Come, *try the Compassions of JESUS!* The GOD-HEAD is in him! His Bowels are *Infinite*. His Mercies are *Tender Mercies*, that are easily touch'd with the *Feeling* of your Miseries! *Tender*, to sympathize with you in them, to relieve you under them, and to deliver you from them. Oh, CHRIST hath a *tender Heart*, and a *tender Hand* to bind up *wounded Spirits!* your Miseries can be but *Finite*; but the *Compassions of CHRIST* are *Infinite!* They know neither Bound, Change, nor End! but spread themselves in glorious Triumph over all! Oh come, cast your Soul, put your Trust under the Shadow of his Wings, until your Calamities are overpast! He will not *Frown you away*: but, *open his Arms*, his Bosom, and let you into *all his Grace!* And lo, *The FATHER himself loveth you!* It will please the Father well, to see you come unto him by *Jesus Christ.* He

delighteth in Mercy, in exercising Loving Kindness to the most miserable and unworthy. The FATHER's Love is great, free, unchangeable and eternal! And through the crucify'd, risen, and ascended SAVIOUR, he will display his Mercy, Love and Grace, in its exceeding Riches, unto Ages without End! God's *Design* in saving Sinners by Jesus Christ, is to *magnify* his Mercy, to *glorify* his Grace, to *commend* his Love, and set it *off* in all its native Glories, before all intelligent Beings. And therefore, *Where Sin has abounded, Grace doth much more abound.* Oh the infinite Fulness of *Grace*! The Glory of this *much more*! GRACE triumphs over *Sins*, over *Miseries*, over *Wants* innumerable, in the *Salvation of Sinners* unto Life eternal! It *fills* Valleys, *covers* Mountains, and like a mighty Deluge, *prevails* in its infinite Strength, and *spreads* its immense Glories over all!

- ‘ It rises, see, it drowns the Hills,
- ‘ ’T has neither Shore nor Bound;
- ‘ Now if we search to find our Sins,
- ‘ Our Sins can ne’re be found!’

Oh the infinite *All-prevailings* of GOD's free, rich, reigning GRACE! Eternity will be little enough to *adore* its Wonders, and *sing* its Praises! Oh *submit* to this GRACE, *rejoice* in this GRACE, *adore* and *praise* this GRACE, in Heart, Lip and Life, until *Time's Praises* are swallow'd up in blest *Eternity's* louder HALLELUJAHs!

Unto the Love and Care of our *Great Shepherd*, I commit you. Pray for, my dear Brother,

Yours most Tenderly in JESUS,

L E T T E R XXII.

To Mr. L——s.

My dear Brother in Christ,

I Thank you for your kind Letter. I rejoice in the Lord's Goodness to *you* and *others*, in applying his own Truths with Power to your Hearts, so weakly stammer'd out by a *Babe*. I rejoice in the Lord's Kindness to *me*, in making

my weak Attempts to serve him and his People, acceptable to you. *Not unto us, not unto us, O LORD, but unto thy Name be all the Glory!*

Glad am I to hear, what Haste our Lord makes, that his glorious Kingdom comes, that he has begun to *shake* the Nations. Oh may the Shake be *general*, and the *Desire of all Nations come!* My dear Brother, we had need be ready. There is no Time for us to *sleep now*. *The Bridegroom cometh!* Oh let us *arise, and trim our Lamps*, lest he find us unprepared! Surely that great and wonderful Work which Christ is doing in the World at this Time, calls aloud upon us, *Christians*, to arise from our carnal Security, to put off the Deeds of Darknes, to put on the Armour of Light, and as Children of Light, to stand prepar'd for the Glory of the approaching Day. Even of that bright DAY, *when the Knowledge of the LORD, shall cover the Earth, as the Waters do the Sea!* When Jew and Gentile shall be brought into one Fold, and one Lord shall be Shepherd over them! When the LORD shall be King over all the Earth, shall reign in Mount Zion, and before his Ancients, gloriously! Surely our Lord, in his Word, and by his Work says, *I come quickly*. Let us in Transports of Love and Joy say, *Amen!* Even so, come Lord Jesus!

I am glad my dear Brother, that you have Boldness thro' the Goodness that is in JESUS, even in the Views of your Self-emptiness. It is Christian-like, Believer-like, to be *nothing* in ourselves, and *All* in CHRIST, who is our ALL! Oh it requires much of the Wisdom and Strength of Faith, to look well into our own Vileness and Emptiness, without *unbelieving Dejection*; and to feel and see ourselves full and glorious, by our Lord's Beams and Streams, without *Self-exaltation!* Oh how apt are we to look upon ourselves in a *seperate View* from Christ! To look on our Wants, in a *seperate View* from his Fullness, and to look on our Supplies, in a *seperate View* from the glorious Fountain from whence they proceed! And so on the one Hand, to sink into *Discouragement*; and on the other, to make Idols of our Lord's *fair Jewels!* Oh we have *unbelieving, Self-exalting*, and in both, CHRIST-*Excluding Hearts*. The Voice of proud Unbelief, in all its various Workings is, *None of Christ! None of Christ!* And yet

yet the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is *sufficient* for us : To forgive our Sins, to subdue our Iniquities, and to give us humble Faith, the Voice whereof, with a louder Cry, is, *None but CHRIST ! None but CHRIST !* He is ALL, and in ALL ! THE LORD, and our LORD ! and unto him be all the GLORY ! and happy are the Souls whose Language is *this !* and happy they, when *this* is their Voice ! CHRIST will say of them, in the Infinity of his Grace, from his own Beauties imputed and imparted, *Thou art All-Fair, my Love, there is no Spot in Thee !* And they again will reply, *Thou art Fair my Beloved ; Fairer than the Children of Men, Fairer than Angelic Glories, immensely Fair, and Altogether Lovely !* How Blessed then are the Souls that believe in JESUS, and that have Communion with him by Faith ! That have an Interest in CHRIST's Love and Fellowship with him therein ! And that this, my dear Brother, may be your daily Privilege, is the hearty Desire of your

Friend and Servant in the Lord.

LETTER XXIII.

To Mr. L——s.

My very dear Brother,

THE Account you gave me in your last, of the Lord's Dealings with your Soul, did much endear you to me, through his Working. Oh my dear Brother, you and I, and all God's Chosen, are loved with the *same Love*. With the infinite, free, unchangeable, and eternal Love of God ! This Love was fix'd upon us of old, before Time was, or Sin entered : Has found us out when afar off from God, and made us nigh by the Blood of CHRIST. It was because the LORD had *loved us with an everlasting Love*, that he *drew us with Loving-kindness*, unto Faith in JESUS. Oh the Sovereignty of Grace, that took *you*, and took *me*, while *others* were left, who in many Respects, were not so *bad* as we ! Whoever is angry at *distinguishing Grace*, let *us* admire it, adore it, and shout its Praises, thro' Time and to Eternity. Let *us* cry, *Grace, Grace*, to the Whole of our Salvation by

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Jesus

Jesus Christ! Love, infinitely *Free*, took us up in our perishing Condition, and gave us the *Life of Grace*. And in its sweet, strong, everlasting Arms, it will carry us into the *Life of Glory*. And there, with uninterrupted Shine, it will cast upon us its bright Beams, unto Bliss and Joy, full and immense, to the Days of Eternity! — *Rejoyce* then, my dear Brother, *in Hope of the Glory of God*. And, *Come up from the Wilderness, leaning upon your Beloved*. Who is *Yesterday, To-day, and for ever the SAME*, in his boundless Love to you! In HIM, I am Sir,

Your most affectionate Friend and Servant,

L E T T E R XXIV.

To Mr. H——d.

My dear and honour'd Brother,

Grace unto you and Peace be multiplied, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THUS we that believe in JESUS, may well greet one another. Since Peace is made for us by the Blood of Christ's Cross, and shall be extended to us like a River. God our Father, is the *God of Peace* unto us in Christ. Oh my Brother, you and I, have done as *evil Things as we could*. And yet, all is *Peace*, between God and us *still*. Our Original Guilt in our first Father *Adam*, that horrid Mass of Enmity against God, which was thence derived into our wretched Nature, that entire and continual Rebellion against our Maker, which we were guilty of before he call'd us by his Grace, and those many great and aggravated Sins, which we have been guilty of since we were under forgiving Love; rise to such a Mass of *Guilt*, that it is an astonishing *Wonder*, that we are not made Vessels of *Wrath* for ever! We have deserv'd nothing less, than God's fiery Indignation, to be persecuted with his Storm, and cast into the tempestuous Sea of eternal Vengeance. — But oh, did JESUS step into *our Place*! Did HE *bear* our Sin, *endure* our Hell, and *drink* up all that *Wrath* which was due to *us*, even to the last Drop, until he cry'd out, *It is finished!* — What *Love* was this in the Son of God! What *Love* was this in the Father,

ther, to give his Son to be thus abas'd and crush'd, wounded and bruised to Death, even the Death of the Cross for us ! For us *Rebels* ! For us *Enemies* ! For us that deserv'd to be Companions with *Devils*, in the *Lake of Fire* for ever ! Oh, it is like GOD ! A Love worthy of GOD ! In which the infinite Glories of the GODHEAD shine, and will be radiantly display'd, to the endless Wonder and Praise of Men and Angels ! It was *you*, my Brother, it was *me*, that JEHOVAH *so loved* ! Can we *sound* the Depths of Love's Ocean ? Can we *take* the Breadths of this boundless Sea ? We may dive into it, but can never *Bottom* it. We may *swim* in it, but can never pass *over* it. Infinite *Love*, is beneath us, above us, behind us, before us, in the Depths and Heights, the Breadths and Lengths of its own *Infinity* ! And this Love, my Brother, dy'd in *Blood*, thro' the Death of JESUS, is a Sea of *Life* unto us ! Here we have the free, the full, the eternal Forgiveness of all our Sins. A Robe of justifying Righteousness, more glorious far, than Angels wear. A Fulness of all Grace, to supply us, to enrich us, to delight us, a boundless, endless Store. And a Fulness of all Glory, of inconceivable Bliss, in the Right of it now, and shall have the Enjoyment of it e'er long, in the immediate Vision of GOD and the LAMB for ever.

Sweet to me, dear Sir, this Morning, were the first and second Verses of the twenty third Psalm. My Heart was inclin'd to acquaint you with it. Ancient was the *Father's Love*, free, rich, distinguishing was *his Grace*, in giving us to *Christ*, as *his Sheep* ; and in commanding him to lay down his *Life*, and take it *again* for us, to save us to the uttermost. And the boundless Love of *Christ*, his free, rich, sovereign *Grace*, in accepting us at the Father's Hand, as his *Sheep*, in taking the Charge of us as *such*, although himself was to *die* in our Stead, to redeem us from all Misery, unto all Glory ; doth far surpass *Knowledge*. All the World are not Christ's Sheep. Why was *you* ? Why was *I* ? How is it that *we* should find such Grace in the Sight of the LORD ? It can be resolv'd into nothing less, than the sovereign *good Pleasure* of his *own Will*. It can only be answer'd by this great Resolve of his Heart : “ I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew Mercy on

whom I will shew Mercy." Let us admire, let us adore it. Strange! that it shou'd be *us*, that the LORD resolv'd to be gracious to, and to shew Mercy upon! But so it is: The LORD is *our Shepherd!* — We shall not *want*. No, his own Life has been paid, to procure for us a full *Supply*. He leads us into *green Pastures*: that deserv'd to dwell in a barren Land, where no Salvation-Blessings spring. He maketh us to lie down beside the still *Waters*: that deserv'd not a Drop of Comfort, nothing but the Damned's Fare; to be tormented in the *Flames of Hell*, without a Drop of Water to cool our Tongue. He makes us to lie down and rest by the *still Waters*; that have deserv'd to be all expos'd to the Waters of *Trouble*. Strange! that the glorious LORD, Father, Son and Spirit, should be unto *us*, that have done so wickedly, that have so much Wickedness in us, a *River of Grace and Peace*, of Love and Life, a *glorious broad River with Streams*; where no Enemy can come to destroy us: When from our God, there is *no Peace to the Wicked!* Oh my Brother, the GOD of *Peace* is our Portion, thro' the LAMB's *Blood!* Thus to us, the *Legatees*, the *New Testament*, with all its glorious Gifts and Bequeathments, stands *confirmed*.

Go then, you Son of Peace, you Heir of Peace, *preach Peace by Jesus Christ, to them that are afar off, and to them that are nigh*. Tell Saints of their peaceful State. Tell Sinners, there is Peace in Christ for the very Chief, that come in to him, the LORD our Peace. Preach the reconciling Word: And the God of Peace will slay the Enmity in the Hearts of his People thereby. — That *the Peace of God which passeth all Understanding, may keep your Heart and Mind thro' Christ Jesus*; is the sincere Desire of, dear Sir,

Your Affectionate Friend and Servant,

In the Glorious LAMB.

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L E T T E R XXV.

To Mr. C—ns.*My dear Brother in Christ,*

I Kindly thank you for your Letters. The first of which, brought me Tidings of great Joy, with Respect to the Coming of our Lord's Kingdom, and especially in the Army. Oh may it rise and shine, till the whole Earth is filled with its Glory ! In vain the Powers of Darknes, oppose the Lord of Light, the LORD our Light, the glorious Sun of Righteousness, who is rising upon his People, with Healing in his Wings. All opposite Power must stoop to the supreme Dominion of the glorious LAMB ; when HE takes unto himself his great Power, and reigneth : By the Sceptre of his Grace, to save his People, and by his Iron Rod, to dash in Pieces his Enemies. The Powers of *Antichrist*, will make *War with the Lamb* ; but the LAMB shall *overcome them*. And however grieving the Approaches of Christ's Kingdom may be to the Men of the World ; “ Let the Children of Zion be joyful in their King : ” and say with united Voice, *Come Lord Jesus, come quickly !*

As to yourself, my dear Brother, I mourn, I rejoice with you, for your different Experiences of the Power of Sin, and of the Power of Grace. Well it is for you and me, that tho' *Sin* works in us, and too often prevails as an *Usurper* ; yet it hath not the *Throne* in our Hearts. *Christ* reigns there ; and *Sin* shall not have Dominion over us. Because we are *not under the Law*, as a Covenant of Works ; which condemns for Sin, which gives no Strength against it : But *under Grace* ; which forgives our Sins, and subdues our Iniquities. —Howbeit, tho' a Christian is, and ought to be *passive* to the Reign of Grace ; he is call'd thereby, to be *active* in a Way of Duty ; to maintain a strict Guard over his Thoughts, Words and Actions, to watch and pray always, lest he enter into Temptation. — And thus the Promise, “ Sin shall not have Dominion over you ; for you are not under the Law, but under Grace : ” And the Exhortation, “ Let not Sin therefore reign in your mortal Body, that you should obey it in the Lusts thereof : ” do well agree. The Grace of God,
doth

doth not set *aside* Duty ; but *calls* for it. Carnal Security, is the Bane of Christianity. “ Be sober, be vigilant, saith the Apostle *Peter*, for your Adversary the Devil, goeth about like a roring Lion, seeking whom he may devour.” He will either put Souls upon *working* for Life ; or having Life, to *cease* from working. To *fear* that their Sins will never be forgiven ; or being pardon’d, to be *fearless* of Sin. He will put Believers, either upon *doubting* of the Truth of Grace in their Hearts ; or having a Persuasion thereof, to be *proud* of it. He will either *dissuade* us from Duty, because of our *Weakness* ; or put us upon *attempting* it, in our own *Strength*, &c. And our vile *Hearts*, always join with *Satan*. And both agree to draw us into *Sin*. We walk as it were, in the midst of *Snares*. And therefore we had need walk *watchfully*. We are never so *weak*, as when we think ourselves *strong*. So near to *nothing*, as when we think ourselves to be *something*. Nor in so much Danger of *falling*, as when we think we *stand*. For, “ Pride goeth before Destruction ; and a haughty Spirit before a Fall.” *Self*, even gracious *Self*, *admir’d*, is made an *Idol* of ; and *trusted in*, will *deceive us*. Every Idol must be *abolish’d*, that the LORD alone may be *exalted*.

But oh, what a Mercy is it to us, that when *we fall*, we are not *alone* ! That there is One to help us *up*, our strong Lord *Jesus*, whose almighty Arm, *upholdeth all that fall* ! Who limits our Falls, that tho’ we fall partially, we fall not utterly ! Who forgives our Sins, heals our Backslidings, and over-rules our Falls, to make us more watchful of our Steps ! Oh it is well for us, that we are *Christ’s Care* ; that He hath a constant *Hold of us* ; else we should fall into *Perdition*, we should fall, and *rise no more*. But *everlasting Arms* being *underneath us*, we are for ever secur’d from *that Danger* ; and being round about us, they’ll *raise us* when we slip : “ When we fall, we shall arise ; when we sit in Darknes, the LORD will be a Light unto us.”—We never walk *safely*, but when we walk *believingly* ; but when we *walk in Christ by Faith*, as we have *receiv’d him*. Oh when, thro’ Unbelief, we begin to walk in *ourselves*, in the Strength of our *received Grace* ; we soon get a *Fall*. When we begin to act, as if we thought we could do *without Christ* ; our kind Lord,

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in Love to our Souls, will soon convince us of the *Need* we have of Him. When we foolishly think, we have receiv'd Grace enough to enable us to walk as *Saints*; we shall soon find that we are poor *Sinners*. And good it is for us to be thus *humbled*; that we may learn practically, our own Misery and Poverty, and to go out of ourselves, and all Self-Dependance continually, to live in, and depend upon the All-Sufficiency of CHRIST. In whom alone, all our fresh Springs, for every Grace and Duty are; and from whom they must be continually derived unto us, or the Exercise of our Graces, and the Performance of our Duties will instantly fail.

I rejoice with you, my dear Brother, that tho' you have had a humbling Proof of your own Vileness; you have a sweet Sense of forgiving Grace. That tho' you have felt the Weight of Sin more than ever, you are sweetly supported under it, by glorious Views of your Compleatness in *Christ*, tho' so incompleat in *yourself*. Oh, nothing gives the Soul, such sweet, solid Soul-Rest, as a View of our being dead to Sin in *Christ*, when we sadly feel that it is alive in *us*. Nothing kills Sin more, nor strengthens the Soul more against it. When we see a complete Victory over our spiritual Enemies, obtain'd for us, and secur'd to us by our conquering Lord; we shall fight valiantly under the Banner of his Love, against all the Powers of Darkness.—Wherefore, “Be strong, my Brother, in the Lord, and in the Power of his Might.” For HE that has done all *for* you, will do all *in* you; and prepare you by all your Trials, for that Service He has design'd you for in this World, and for the Glory which is prepar'd for you in the World to come.—Unto the tender Care of CHRIST, the great Shepherd, I commit you: And am, dear Sir,

Yours most affectionately in HIM,

LETTER XXVI.

To Mr. L——s.

My very dear Brother in Christ,

I Thank you for yours received. I compassionate you in your inward and outward Trials. Be of good Cheer: All Things

Things go *well*. All Things are *yours*, whether prosperous or afflictive. All Things work together for your *Good*; to ripen your Graces, and prepare you for your Crown.—“Aye, you will say, how can that be, when I don’t see that I grow in Grace thereby?—Know you not, my Brother, that our Lord works by *Contraries*? that he often works under-ground, out of our Sight? That a Child of God may grow sweetly in Grace, when he don’t *know* it? That he may grow *downward* in Humility and Self-abasement, when he don’t grow *upward* in Love and Joy? That when he don’t *feel* the Power of Christ resting upon him, to his growing up into Him, by the Exercise of Summer-Graces; he may grow *more* in a deep Sense of his own Weakness and utter Insufficiency to do any good Thing, take *deeper* Root by Faith into the All-sufficiency of CHRIST, and by a humble and entire Dependence, cleave *closer* to Him than ever? And that Winter-Dispensations, *prepare* for Summer-Fruits? *Blessed* (says our Lord) *are the Poor in Spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven*. God’s free, sovereign Grace, reigning thro’ the Redeemer’s Righteousness, will do *all* for them, that see themselves worthy of *Nothing*; will *enrich* those, that see they *want* every Thing. It is good for us to be emptied of Self, and Self-Dependence; to see ourselves to be nothing but a Mass of Weakness and Vileness. And the Means by which this is effected, thro’ the over-ruling Power and Grace of God, are Times of Trial. Of the sensible Withdraw of divine Influences, of Temptations from Satan, of the Working of Corruptions, and of contrary Dispensations.—When by Reason of *These*, we cry out, *Wo is me, I am undone!* Then we shall be *made*. When thus *oppressed* and *distressed*; the LORD *will undertake for us*. There is Work for the SAVIOUR, when thus we see ourselves to be *poor Sinners*. There is Room for Free-Grace to display its *Glories*, when within and without, we are surrounded with *Miseries*. And when in all Respects, we see ourselves to be *Helpless*; the LORD, the Almighty God, will be our *Helper*. We can’t have too many *Miseries*, for a GOD of boundless Compassions to be touch’d with. Nor too many *Wants*, for a GOD of infinite Fulness to supply. And *this* GOD, in infinite Faithfulness, *is our GOD, for ever and ever*. For Ever, thro’
Time;

Time ; and for ever, to Eternity. And what can we want more ? Is God in CHRIST *ours* ? Let us be *content* with our Portion. We have *enough* in HIM : We have *All*. We cannot, we shall not want *any good Thing*. Whatever infinite Wisdom sees best for us ; infinite Goodness will bestow upon us ; and infinite Faithfulness secures to us. — Sweet my Brother, was this Expression of yours to me : “ A God keeping Covenant, is a SAVIOUR to some Purpose.” Let me add, Unto all Intents and Purposes, relating to our present and eternal Salvation, from all Sin and Misery, unto all Grace and Glory. Oh my Brother, your Covenant-God, will give you *Faith* to trust in him. He that was the *Author*, will be the *Finisher* of your Faith. His Faithfulness stands engag’d, to maintain, increase, and perfect the Work of Faith with Power. Your Soul, your Body are the LORD’s : The Redeemer’s *Right*, and precious to him. And both, and all Things needful for both, are *His Care*.

Come then, lie down and rest in the Bosom of infinite Love, in the Bosom of God, your own God in CHRIST ; who is and will be to you, *The God of Love* ! Here all Things are provided for you, that you can possibly want. Pardon for your Guilt, Strength for your Weakness, Wisdom for your Folly, in a Word, *all Fulness* to supply your *every Need*. Commit your Soul, your Body, your Circumstance, into the Lord your Redeemer’s Hands ; and take an holy Ease, from all anxious Care about either. *Can you by taking such Thought, add to your Stature one Cubit ?* Will you rob your Lord of his Glory as your *Leader*, by drawing out *Ways* for him to lead you in ? Oh commit yourself wholly unto *his Conduct*. Lose your own Wisdom as Folly, in his infinite Understanding. *Believe now*, that He leads you by a Right Way to a City of Habitation ; you shall *see it* to be so *e’er long*. If now you are call’d to follow him in the *Dark* ; He will shortly bring you forth to the *Light*, and you shall behold his Righteousness. *In the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, God will gather together in one all Things in Christ*. All his Dealings, with all his People, into one bright Form, one great Design of boundless Love, in a glorious Order of infinite Wisdom : And as such present them unto their View ; to their endless Joy, and to his eternal

Praise. — And mean Time, let us *believe*, when we can't see; *adore*, what we can't comprehend; and in *Patience possess our Souls*, thro' all that Distress and Perplexity, which attends Nations, Churches, Families and Persons, in these evil Times, which precede our Lord's Coming. He has told us before-hand, that *these Things must come to pass*; and bidden us *lift up our Heads*, at the Beginning of Sorrows: Because *the Day of our Redemption draweth nigh*.

As to the Persecution that our Brethren meet with, the LORD will be with them in it, and over-rule it for the Furtherance of his Gospel, the Good of Souls, and for their present and eternal Joy. The more God's People are *afflicted*, the more they *grow*. The Enemies shall never get them rooted out of the *Earth*, so long as CHRIST sits enthron'd for them in *Heaven*. Howbeit, the Powers of *Antichrist*, will make War with the LAMB; and they shall accomplish to *scatter the Power of the holy People*, for a little Season. That the Judgments of our Lord the King of Saints, may appear to be true and righteous, when he ariseth to save all the Meek of the Earth, and to break in Pieces the Oppressor. *The LORD of Hosts is with us, the GOD of Jacob is our Refuge*. Selah. *There is a River, the Streams whereof shall make glad the City of God. GOD is in the Midst of her, she shall not be moved: GOD shall help her, and that right early. Therefore we will not fear, tho' the Earth be removed, and tho' the Mountains be carried into the Midst of the Sea. Tho' the Waters thereof roar and be troubled, tho' the Mountains shake with the Swelling thereof*. Selah. — Into the Heart and Arms of CHRIST, I commit you. Who loves you infinitely, cares for you continually, and will save you compleatly. His Grace be with your Spirit! Pray for me. — I am, dear Sir,

Yours affectionately in the Slain LAMB,

LETTER

LETTER XXVII.

To Mr. H——d.

Dear and Honour'd Brother,

YOURS I receiv'd, and return you Thanks for it. I rejoyce in the Lord's Loving-kindness to your Soul, and that his Hand is with you in your Work. — May the Lord continue these great Favours, and increase you with all the Increases of God! Indeed my dear Brother, it is our Happiness and Glory to *feel* much of GOD in our Hearts. It is CHRIST *within*, inwardly enjoy'd, unto a growing Conformity to him, that makes the Soul *Happy*. I am entirely of your Mind, that “ Religion don't consist in Disputes, but in inward Sensation and Experience.” And lamentable it is, that in the Age wherein we live, there is so much resting in *Head-Knowledge*, without *Heart-Experience*. And where the Truth of Grace is in the Heart, that there is so much resting in *past Experiences*, without an earnest Concern after *Growth in Grace*, and an *Increase in the Knowledge of CHRIST*, or a daily Fellowship with CHRIST in his Death and Resurrection, unto full Joy and increasing Holiness. Oh what holy, happy Christians should we be, if we were earnestly concern'd about a daily *Knowing* of the Truth as it is in JESUS, in its Power and Efficacy on our Hearts, and reducing the same to an answerable *Practice* in our Lives! That Religion which consists only in *Head-Knowledge*, without *Heart-Influence*, is little worth. — Nor is that Religion which exalts *inward Sensation*, to a Neglect of *outward Revelation*, much better. — For without *Knowledge*, (the Knowledge of Gospel-Truths) the *Heart* cannot be *good*. We must first *know*, to *feel*, and *feel*, to *do*, if what we do in Religion is *right*, either as to the inward Actings of our Minds, or the outward Actions of our Lives. — This is the Sum, my dear Brother: The Lord Jesus Christ and his blessed Truths, reveal'd in the Gospel *without us*, must first be reveal'd by the Holy Spirit *within us*, before we can feel the happy Influence of God's Salvation in our Hearts: And *so far* as Christ and his Truths are reveal'd in us, *so far* we are oblig'd to abide therein by Faith, to cleave thereto in Love, and to bear

Witness for the same, both in Word and Deed, in our Lives. — Has Christ and his Truths been reveal'd to *your Mind*, my dear Brother, by the Word and Spirit of God? Have you *seen* the Glory, and *felt* the Power hereof? Then are you call'd to *hold fast that which you have received; that no Man take your Crown.* — Disputes in Religion, for *Dispute's Sake*, for *Humour's Sake*, are no better than *vain Jangling*, idle Contention, a wretched Miss-pence of Time, a Neglect of the Power of Godliness, and a Means to promote Ungodliness and Irreligion. Disputes in Religion, to advance Error, and destroy the Truth, are *abominable*. But Disputes in Religion, for *Truth's Sake*, to advance the Truth against rising Error, are *commendable* and *profitable*. Such Kind of Disputes, maintain'd by the inspir'd Penmen, we have Instances of both in the Old and New Testament. To such Kind of Disputes, the Saints are exhorted, even to *contend earnestly for the Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints*, Jude 3. And the happy *Fruit* of such Disputes, is the *Advancement* of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and the *Downfal* of Satan's, the *Establishment* of Saints in the Doctrines of Christ, the *Deliverance* of their Souls from the Falshoods advanc'd by the Father of Lies, and the *Overthrow* of Men of corrupt Minds. — Such is the infinite Wisdom and Grace of our dear Lord Jesus, as the Head and King of his Church, that he would not suffer Errors to appear, if he did not design to over-rule them for his own Glory and his People's Good. When the Prince of Darkness with his Train, make War with the Lamb by advancing *Error*, darkning, shaking *Error*; our Lord thereby, will more abundantly manifest and confirm his *Truth*, and the *Faith* of his People therein: While *then*, in an especial Manner, he calls and spirits his Servants, his Witnesses, to lift up the *Standard* of Truth, against Error, and *fight* valiantly under HIM their great Leader, who for this End came into the World, *To bear Witness to the Truth*. And lo, our Lord will honour those who are his Witnesses, his Warriors for Truth in the Earth, and crown them as Victors, with heavenly Glory. — An absolute *Opposition* to all Disputes in Religion, is an apparent *Artifice* of Satan. And the manifest Design of the Enemy herein is, to darken the Redeemer's Glory, by a Cloud

of Error, and have none to stand on Christ's Side, on the Side of Truth, to fan the Air, and drive away the Smoke of the bottomless Pit.

Perhaps my dear Brother, you may wonder I speak thus ; but I would guard your Mind from that Snare into which others have fallen. Brother R——s, and Brother O——y were drawn off from appearing on the *Side of Truth*, by *No Dispute in Religion*, until they *lost* the Truth. — And a sad Account I have in a Letter lately receiv'd from a Friend at Ph——ia, ‘ That the M——n Tenets spread very fast in that Place, that many Profelytes are made, and ‘ that hereupon Persons most sadly give up the Truths of ‘ Christ, and say, “ They will have nothing to do with “ Doctrines, or Principles in Religion.” — *May the God of Peace bruise Satan under your Feet, and after all your Sufferings by his Temptations, stablish, strengthen, settle you ! May HE deliver you from every evil Work, and preserve you safe unto his Heavenly Kingdom ! The Grace of CHRIST be with your Spirit !* Into his Arms I commit you. Pray for,

Dear Sir,

Yours most affectionately in J E S U S,

L E T T E R XXVIII.

To Mr. L——s.

My dear Brother L——s,

I Kindly thank you for your last. It much rejoic'd my Heart, to hear that your Hope in God and Expectation from Him was strengthen'd. And that the sovereign Lord of All, was pleas'd to make my last a Means to comfort your dear Soul. The Account you gave me, of the Lord's making my poor Letters of such Use to you, melted me into Tears of Joy and Thankfulness. The Lord thereby enlarg'd my Heart to praise Him, and fill'd me with vast Desires to serve Him.

It is Christ's Voice unto you, “ Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, Rejoice.” God hath given you his Son, that unspeakable GIFT ! See that for this, to the glorious

rious Giver, your whole Life be *Thanks!* Oh my Brother, a heavy unthankful Frame, ill becomes those happy Souls, that have CHRIST for their Portion. God the Father lov'd you so, that He did not think the *World*, good enough to be *your Lot*. And therefore gave his *Son*; in whom all Fulness, even the Fulness of the GODHEAD dwells. Oh take up your *wondrous Lot!* And go thro' a World of Trials rejoicing. CHRIST is given you, and all Things with him freely. All Grace, all Glory, and all good Things. Life and Death, Comforts and Crosses, Things present and Things to come: "All are yours, and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's." Wherefore behave with a true Greatness of Spirit, as an Heir of *All Things*, an *Heir of GOD*, and a *Joint-Heir with CHRIST!* Are your most grieving Things given you by infinite Love? And will you not accept of them humbly and thankfully? Your Troubles are all under the supreme Dispose of your all-wise and all-gracious GOD. And after you have been fully exercis'd thereby, they will yield unto you, the peaceable Fruit of Righteousness. Oh be in Love with every Thing that comes from the GOD of Love, to bring the Fruits of his Love to you here in Grace, and to prepare you for endless Glory. — Happy are you, that you *seek JESUS*: You shall *find Him*. "Your Heart shall live, that seeks GOD."—Be *earnestly* concern'd about Growth in Grace, but not *anxiously* concern'd. For all Anxiety and Perplexity spring from *Unbelief*. *Faith*, lays the Soul to Rest in the Bosom of GOD, in the Midst of Trouble. "The Righteous shall flourish like the Palm-Tree:" under pressing Weights. And when Pressures will not conduce to your Fruitfulness; the Lord your Lover, will take them off your Shoulders. All Things are in *Love to you*; in all give *Thanks*: *And the Peace of GOD which passeth all Understanding, keep your Heart and Mind thro' Christ Jesus*. In HIM, dear Sir, I am

Yours most affectionately,

L E T T E R XXIX.

To Mr. C——ns.

My dear Brother in Christ,

GRace unto you, and Peace be multiplied. — I thank you for your last Letter. I have just now been reading it, and was melted into Tears of Joy, for the Grace that saved you; and made me, in my poor Writings, a Means of your Acquaintance with the *Doctrines of Grace*; and I am persuaded, with the *Grace* of those Doctrines. — Oh *why* did not the Lord let you go down in the *broad Way to Destruction*, when posting on in *that* high Road? Because He had *lov'd and chosen you of Old*! Because He had not appointed you unto *Wrath*, but to obtain *Salvation by Jesus Christ*. — And when turn'd from a vicious Course, to a *strict Life*, and become a proud *Pharisee*, a Reasoner, a Disputer against that sovereign *Grace*, by which the Lord saves his Own; *Why*, oh *why*, did not the Lord let you go down to the Pit of Hell, with this *Lie* of your own Righteousness in your *Right Hand*? *Why* did He not resolve to punish you with everlasting Destruction, for your Enmity against, and Disobedience to the *Gospel*? Oh, not because you did not *deserve it*; but because He *would* be gracious! Because He *would* have Mercy upon you, merely from the sovereign good Pleasure of his own Will! Oh Sir, you was *without God* in the World, *afar off* from Him; an *Enemy in your Mind by wicked Works*; even by this wicked Work, of going about to *establish your own Righteousness*; and thereby refusing *Submission to the Righteousness of God*. You was a *Stranger to CHRIST*: Of you, a *Builder*, upon your own Doings for Life, was *Jesus Christ*, the *chief Corner-stone*, the *Foundation* which God has laid in *Sion*, *disallow'd*. Your Soul was brimful of Enmity against your SAVIOUR. You said unto Him, *Depart from me; I desire not the Knowledge of thy Ways*. And would He not take you at your *Word*, and say, *I'll leave thee; thou shalt never have eternal Life by the Knowledge of ME*? Would He not let you go, with a *Thousand* that fall at your *Side*, and *Ten Thousand* at your *Right-Hand*? Oh, *No*! But *why*, oh *why*? Was it because you was *better than they*? No, in *na* *wise*. But such was the Sovereignty, the Freeness, the Im-

menstity

menfity of *Chrift's Love* to you, that He *would not, could not,*
 let you *perish*. You he had known, and lov'd of *Old*. He
 had liv'd and dy'd, serv'd and sweat, groan'd and bled for
 you, to bring you into his own Embraces. You was *his* by
 Right of Gift; the Father gave you to him before Time be-
 gan. You was *his* by Right of Purchase; he bought you with
 his Blood, and gave his own Soul, in your Soul's Stead. And
 out of the Devil's Kingdom, out of the Jaws and Paws of
 the Devourer, he would have you. He resolv'd you should
 be *his* by Right of Conquest: To assail and overcome you,
 to allure and secure you to himself for ever. Oh my Brother,
 all the Passes and Avenues of your *Heart*, were barr'd and
 bolted against CHRIST. Satan, that strong One, arm'd
 with your *Sins*, and the *Curse* of the Law, kept the *House*,
 the Possession of your *Heart*; until a *stronger than he* came
 upon him, bound him, and spoil'd him of his Goods. Un-
 til the LORD your mighty Lover, in the omnipotent Strength
 of his own Grace, made his Royal Entrance into your Soul;
 brake the Gates of Brass, and cut the Bars of Iron in sunder,
 destroy'd your strong Enemy, and deliver'd you out of his cruel
 Hands. *The Son hath made you free*: And now you are *free*
indeed! Free from the Guilt of Sin, and free from its reign-
 ing Power. Free from the Government of Satan, and the
 World's Jurisdiction. Free from the Law's Curse, the Hurt
 of natural, and the Danger of eternal Death. But what shall
 I say? A *complete Freedom* from all your Enemies, and *glori-
 ous Triumph* over them, hath JESUS given you *in himself*,
 and will shortly give you *thro' him*. Your *mystical Freedom*
 from all Bondage and Slavery, and Right to all Glory, is
 complete in CHRIST. Himself hath made you free, perfectly
 free, in himself. And *personal Freedom*, every Way com-
 plete, in the free, the irreversible *Grant* of all Salvation, is
 given you by *Faith* in the SAVIOUR's Name. And the
 joyful *Beginnings* of all this Bliss, you have in your *own*
Soul. Which from its happy Dawn, thro' Almighty Love,
 shall advance apace to the perfect Day, to the Meridian-
 Brightness of that Glory-Day, which awaits you. — *Stand*
fast therefore in the Liberty wherewith CHRIST hath made
you free; and be not entangled again with the Yoke of Bondage.
 CHRIST hath lov'd and bought, lov'd and rescu'd, lov'd and
 woo'd,

woo'd, and won you to *himself*.—And will you not now be *his*? Oh, from henceforth, *being deliver'd out of the Hands of all your Enemies, serve him in Holiness and Righteousness all the Days of your Life!* CHRIST will never let go his Love-Hold of you. Oh cleave you unto *him*, with full *Purpose of Heart*: And follow the LAMB, even *whithersoever he goeth*. Bear the *Cross*; you shall shortly wear the *Crown*. Most *sweet* is the Cross of blessed JESUS; and ineffably *great* that Crown of Glory, which he will shortly set upon your Head, as an Overcomer. Labour to keep it in View by *Faith*, to hearten you on, to *run with Patience the Race which is set before you*, until you *inherit the Promises*. And what that Glory will be, in its Perfection, Extension and Greatness; is beyond the Description of an *Angel's Tongue!* Oh, what will it be, to see CHRIST as he *is!* To be forever *with him!* To live under the direct Line of his *Love!* The all-enlightning, all-enkindling Rays of Love's flaming Glory, to the innumerable Ages of a bless'd Eternity!—

“ Millions of Years, my wondring Eyes,

“ Shall o'er thy Beauties rove :

“ And endless Ages, I'll adore

“ The Glories of thy Love !”

That you as a *tender Lamb* of CHRIST's Fold, may be guided and guarded by him the *great Shepherd*, and made to lie down in the fat, green Pastures of Gospel-Grace, beside the still, deep Waters of eternal Love ; for your Refreshment and Growth in this weary Wilderness ; until he brings you to the City which our God has prepar'd for you, and *presents you faultless before the Presence of his Father's Glory, with exceeding Joy* : Is the sincere Desire of, my dear Brother,

Your most affectionate Friend and Servant,
In our sweet JESUS,

LETTER XXX.

To Mr. L.—s.

My very dear Brother,

I Am glad the Lord made my last Letter of Use to you. As you said it was *close* ; I suppose you might misunderstand

stand some Expression therein. Perhaps *this*: “All Anxiety “ and Perplexity, spring from *Unbelief*.” By this, my dear Brother, I did not intend *total*, but *partial* Unbelief. Nor to signify thereby, that the Anxiety which was in your Mind, was an Indication of your being in a *State* of Unbelief. There is much *Unbelief* remains in *Believers*, even in the *strongest* of them all. The Workings whereof, ought to be reduc'd to their proper Principle, from whence they flow. And to *watch*, and *oppose* the same, is an excellent Piece of the *Wisdom* of Faith. We should not *doubt* our being Believers, because Unbelief *works* in us; but rise up as such, in a holy Indignation against this great Sin. This easily-besetting Sin, that robs God of his Glory, as our great SAVIOUR; and us of our Comfort in his great Salvation. Though, Thanks to the God of all Grace! it cannot rob us of our Interest in *him*, and his infinite Love and Care; nor separate us one Moment from his tender Regard: However frequently it may suggest to *Sion's Children*, that *Sion's God* hath *forgot-ten* and *forsaken* them.—Be of good Cheer, my Brother; *Christ* lives for you and in you; and *you* shall live in and with *him*, both in Grace and Glory.—*Peace be unto you*.—In the Bowels of Jesus Christ, I am, dear Sir,

Yours most tenderly,

L E T T E R XXXI.

To Mrs. C——pe.

My very dear Sister in the Lord,

I Sympathize with you in your long Affliction; be of good Cheer: It is the Fruit of your Father's Love. It springs from Love, it shall be managed by Love, and it shall end in Love to your dear Soul. Your sweet Lord Jesus will be with you, now you are passing through the *Waters* of Affliction; and the *Rivers* shall not overflow you. Surely in the *Floods* of great *Waters*, your *Sins* shall not come nigh you, in the Imputation of their Guilt, nor in their deserved Punishment. Upon Christ, your Surety, God the Father laid all your Iniquity; and your dying Lord, by giving himself a Sacrifice in your Stead, hath forever made an End of your *Sin*.

Sin. Even *yours*, who have fled for *Refuge* as a perishing *Sinner*, to the once-bleeding *Saviour*, to lay hold on *him*, that glorious *Hope* set before you in the Gospel. *Christ*, your *Passover*, was sacrificed for *you*. And *God*, even your Father, beheld the *bleeding Lamb*, was satisfy'd for your *Sins*, and hath removed them as far from you, as the *East* is from the *West*; and is and will be unto you, *the God of Peace*. All is *Peace*, my dear Sister, between *God* and *you* in *Christ*. There is no *Wrath* in your present Cup of Affliction; nor shall the *Wrath to come* ever touch you. *Christ* is an *Hiding-place* to you, from that *Wind*, a secure *Covert* from that *Tempest*. And as *Rivers of Water*, will your *Jesus* be unto you in a *dry Place*; in your Passage thro' this Wilderness, this Vale of Tears.—Go fearless then, with your *own Lord Jesus*, through all the Afflictions of *Life*; yea, thro' *Death* itself, when he calls you to pass thro' that dark Valley, to the Mount of eternal Life and Glory. For lo, *the eternal GOD is your Refuge*; and underneath are the everlasting Arms! Since *God the Saviour* is your Refuge, my Sister, you shall be well defended. Since his everlasting Arms are underneath you, they'll support you well. They'll bear you up under pressing Griefs, and raise you to Joys and Glories, where Sorrows and Miseries cannot come.—I rejoyce to hear, that you are resolved to *rest on Christ*. And well you may; my dear Sister, rest all your *Weight* as a poor *Sinner*, upon *Christ* the great *Saviour*, as the Building rests upon the Foundation: For the *Rock of Ages*, can never sink beneath you. It is safe venturing into *Eternity*, upon *Christ*, that *sure Foundation* which *God* hath laid in *Sion*. It is as impossible, that any one Soul should *perish*, that rests on *Jesus*, as that *God* himself should be *unfaithful*; who hath said, That *he that believeth on Christ, shall not be ashamed*.—Glad should I be, my dear Sister, if the Lord would please to rebuke your Illness, and to restore you to us again. But if the Time is come, for you to be taken up to the blest Assembly above, your Happiness will be ineffably greater. To be *with Christ*, bless'd with the immediate Vision of his Face, and a full Conformity to his Image, is *far, far better!* *Glory, Glory* dwelleth in *Emanuel's Land!* We that are left behind, shall soon follow you, and with all the Lord's Redeemed,

shall join in Hallelujahs unto God and the Lamb forever and ever.—Into the Arms of *Jesus* I commit you; who will *never, never leave you, nor forsake you*: Who will not *fail* you, when Friends, and earthly Comforts cannot *help* you. No, nor when your own *Heart* and *Flesh* fail neither. When all Cisterns of Creature-Comforts are *dry*, and can't afford you one *Drop* in your greatest *Need*; then will the LORD be unto you, a *Fountain* of Life and Joy; the *Strength* of your *Heart*, and your *Portion* forever!—In him, my dear Sister, I am

Yours most Affectionately,

L E T T E R XXXII.

To Mr. W——rd.

My very dear Brother in Christ,

I Thank you for your Letter, the Lord made it a Blessing to me, a Means to excite my Joy in him and Thanksgiving to him, to humble me before him, and to strengthen my Hands in his Work. Indeed the Lord hath done, and doth great Things for *me*, to shew his great Grace to the *Chief of Sinners*: And unto *him* be great and eternal Glory!

I sympathize with you, my dear Brother, in your present Temptations; altho' I have not been try'd in those Particulars. Having felt the Power and Pain of Temptations in other Respects, I can compassionate you, under your particular Exercises. The *same Afflictions* which every Child of God meets with, as to his particular Temptations, are accomplish'd in some or other of his *Brethren which are in the World*. And though every particular *Temptation* is not felt by every particular *Saint*; yet Temptations of all *Kinds* are cast among the Members of Christ as a collective *Body*: Whence all the Members from their own particular Experience, have a kindly Sympathy with each other in their particular Trials: And a *Collection*, an *All* of Temptations, was painfully felt by *Christ*, the dear *Head* of the Church; to fit him for a most intense Sympathy with every of his *particular Members*, in every of their *particular Temptations*; himself having felt the *same*: Whence, from a Sea of flow-
ing

ing Compassions, an Infinity of yearning Bowels in his Heart, he affords them suitable Succour in every Time of Need. *He was tempted in all Points like as we are. And in that he himself hath thus, suffered, being tempted, he is able thus to succour them that are tempted.*—Be of good Cheer, my dear Brother, your compassionate Jesus, feels your Sorrows, and makes them his own by Sympathy; will support you under, do you good by, and deliver you from your present Distresses. —Flee to *Christ*, your Hiding-place from the Wind of Temptation; tell him how hard it blows upon you: And in infinite Grace, he will open his Bosom for your Relief, convert you in himself from the Storm, and cause you to take deeper Root through these Shakings, by which Satan wou'd tear you up from your Standing in Christ, and in the Truth as it is in Jesus. Venture not to fight with Satan in your *own* Strength, nor with your *own* Weapons: But flee to the LORD your Strength, your *very present Help in Trouble*, and ask for Weapons out of his Armoury. And thus, *commit the Keeping of your Soul to Jesus*; and your Temptations shall end well; for the Glory of your Lord, the Captain of your Salvation, and for the special Advantage of your saved Soul. Flee as a feeble Creature in yourself, to the LORD the Rock of Ages, in whom is *everlasting Strength*: And as an *Inhabitant of the Rock*, you shall, yea, you may even now, *sing a Triumph over all your Enemies*, and say, *O my Soul, thou hast trodden down Strength: I am more than a Conqueror thro' him that hath loved me.*—Have you heard Christ's Voice, my Brother, and been drawn by his Grace and Power to follow him, to cleave to him, to commit yourself to him as a perishing Sinner, to be saved by him with a free, a full, an everlasting Salvation? Be well persuaded, from the Assurance given you by his sacred Word, that he gives unto you *eternal Life*, that you shall never *perish*, and that none shall *pluck you out of his Hand*, John x. 28. Strive they may, strive they will, even all the Powers of Darkness within and without you. But *alas!* for *them*, all Hail to *you!* They come too late to destroy you. The precious Hands of Jesus, the strong Hands of his omnipotent Grace and Covenant-Faithfulness, in which you are inclos'd, do well secure you from the most cruel Efforts of your strongest Enemies.

Think

Think it not strange, my Brother, that such Winds of *false Doctrine* are suffer'd to blow upon the People of God at this Time, and such fierce Winds of *Temptation* to assail them thereby. For whenever our Lord hath done, or is about to do great Things for his Church, or for particular Souls, by the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of *Truth*; the Enemy Satan, the Spirit of *Error*, hath always done, and will do his utmost, to reproach and oppose the Work of the Lord, the Friend of Sinners. But not a Soul shall be shaken off from the Foundation *Christ*, that was ever built upon him; nor a Man fall from the *Doctrines* of Jesus, that independent on his own Wisdom and Strength, commits himself to the great Prophet and Head of the Church, and humbly waits upon the Lord for his Teachings to be given him, and his Power to rest upon him.

It is no new Thing, dear Sir, that those Persons you hint at, strive to draw us off from the *Truth* that we have heard and learned as it is in *Jesus*; by suggesting, "That it is but *Notion*, that we have received it by *Education*, from *Men*, &c. and are too full of our own *Wisdom*, as they call it."—For this has all along been the Way of those who would advance Errors, thus to endeavour to loosen Persons from the *Truth*, from the *Doctrines* of *Christ*, which they have been taught and receiv'd, and to make them become plain, simple Souls, like a blank Piece of Paper; that so they might be the more fit for them to write, or impress what Errors they please upon them. This is a great Part of the *Subtilty* of the *old Serpent*, and one of the cunning *Sleights* of erroneous Persons, whereby they lie in wait to deceive unwary, simple Souls.—A Privilege very great it is when the Children of God are filled with all *Knowledge*, and spiritual *Understanding*, when the *Word of Christ* dwells in them richly, and they are enabled to hold fast the *Things*, the *Doctrines* of *Faith*, which they have been taught. For such blessed Souls, not being *Children*, but *Men* in *Understanding*, are not easily tossed to and fro, with every *Wind of Doctrine*, rais'd by Satan, and cast thro' Men of corrupt Minds. They are not *Reeds* shaken with the *Wind*; but in the Strength of *Christ*, fix'd upon him the immoveable *Rock*, held in his Hand, girt about with his Omnipotence, they stand like so many
Pillars,

Pillars, with his precious *Truths* inscrib'd upon them, to bear a publick Testimony for the same before all. And from *these*, the Enemies flee, upon *these* they despair getting Advantage. It is the *simple Souls*, that *believe every Word*, that become an easy Prey to *Seducers*: It is those they seek for; it is such they labour to bring all to be, wherever they come.—But blessed be God, he hath had a Remnant, and will have in every Age of the Church, who fill'd with the Spirit of Truth, shall successfully oppose the Spirit of Error, and all the Instruments of advancing the same, under all the various Forms of its Appearance. And blessed are those happy Souls, who are honour'd of God to be the Lamb's Witnesses, to hold forth his glorious Truths, against the black Falshoods of the roaring Lion. Who seeks thereby to eclipse the Light of *Emanuel's* Kingdom, and make it a Throne of Darknes, like his own. To rob *Sion's* King of the Glory of his Crown; and his happy Subjects of their Obedience of Faith here, and so of their Crown of Glory with him hereafter. Altho' the unhappy Instruments made use of by the Prince of Darknes, may be ignorant of the *Depths of Satan*, of his Designs therein.

And tho', my dear Brother, some of the *Lamb's Witnesses*, may as it were for a Moment, endure the Torture of some *shaking Thoughts*, some Hellish Suggestions, shot into their Minds with an impelling Force; yet using that Piece of their Armour, *All-Prayer*, and holding up *Christ*, the *Shield of Faith*, on every Side, they shall therewith be able to *quench the fiery Darts of the Wicked*. And their *tried Faith*, which stands it out against the most furious Assaults; shall be found unto *Praise, and Honour, and Glory at the Appearing of Jesus Christ*. And over-rul'd their Trials shall be, to fit them more for their *Work*, of Witness-bearing for Jesus, in the present State. *Out of Weakness*, they shall be made *strong, wax valiant in Fight, turn to Flight the Armies of the Aliens*, and be crown'd at last as *Overcomers*.

Whatever, my dear Brother, the poor blind *Heathens* might advance, in their Study of natural *Philosophy*, “That
“the greatest Attainment of Mortals was, To contemplate
“on *Things*, and leave them in *Suspense*, as being certain of
“*Nothing* :”—It is far otherwise with discerning *Christians*, in their Knowledge of *Christ*, and Study of *Divinity*: The

Book of God, teacheth those who are bless'd with the glorious *Light* of it, quite another Lesson. — Here, in God's blessed Book, we have a most certain Account of the Things of *Nature*: Of their Original, Use, and End. That they deriv'd their Being from the great Creator's Word; that they are for his Glory, and as upheld by his Hand, subserve his Designs; and that they shall be dissolved at the Time appointed.—And in the Book of God, the Things of *Religion*, both natural and reveal'd, are display'd with the greatest Certainty and the brightest Glory.—Here the Being and Perfections of *God*, with the Worship due to him by his rational *Creatures*, as Things of the greatest Certainty, do shine most conspicuously. — And here also, the Revelation of *God in Christ*, and the Obedience due to him by *Christians*, are display'd with infallible Certainty, and shine with a peculiar and all-transcendent Glory. The Things of God, as the greatest Realities, dart upon us thro' his written Word, with an all-convincing and infinite Brightness. Here, in the blessed Gospel, the *Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ*, shines radiantly. The Glory of his Essence, of his Attributes, of his Persons, of his Counsels, of his Acts and Works of Grace, of his Means and Ends, in the Salvation of his People from all Sin and Misery, unto all Holiness and Glory: With the great and ineffable Things which God hath prepar'd for those that wait for him, both in the present and future World; and also, the sweet and strong Obligations to Duty and Gratitude which saved Souls are laid under, by the Love, Grace and Mercy of God their Saviour: As their present Privilege, and in order to their future Crown: All these, my Brother, as the greatest Realities, as infallible Certainties, from divine Authority, with an infinite Glory and Soul-transforming Energy, are presented unto us in the *Glass* of the *Gospel*.

And to suit a divine and supernatural *Revelation*, a special and divine *Faith*, or a *Faith of the Operation of God*, is given. Which is every Way fitted as a spiritual Eye, to converse with spiritual Objects, and is the Soul's supernatural Capacity, to take in supernatural *Glories*, as infallible *Certainties*, in all the bright Forms of their Appearance,

as they stand forth to be beheld in the divine *Revelation*, while a divine *Light*, by the Spirit of the Lord irradiates it.

Hence, *Faith* is said to be *The Substance of Things hoped for, the Evidence of Things not seen*, Heb. xi. 1. The *Things hoped for*, the *Things not seen*, are the *Things*, the invisible *Glories*, the infallible *Certainties* of a divine and supernatural *Revelation*. And these a supernatural and divine *Faith*, beholds and receives, according to their Presentation in the Gospel, as most *substantial*: Or, Faith gives a *Substance* to those Things in the Mind, which are declar'd in the Gospel to be the greatest *Realities*. It doth as it were give *Being* to the Things hoped for, in the Soul, which are declar'd by the Word of God, to have the most solid and permanent *Being* in themselves. Faith makes them *Substance*, not *Shadow*, a mere *Phantasm*, or Appearance. And Faith is the *Evidence of Things not seen*: Of Things declar'd by the Word of God, which are not otherwise to be known; of Things hidden from the *Heathen* World, and from natural Men, in the nominal *Christian* World too; of Things past, present, or to come, that have not a present Appearance in themselves, or to the View of *Sense*; but had, have, or shall have a real *Existence*, according to the Declarations made concerning them in the *Book of God*. Faith sees Things as they are there presented, and faith as God faith. Such and such Things have been, are, or shall be, faith *God*: Such and such Things have been, are, or shall be, says *Faith*: I see the Things which God hath spoken, they stand forth to my View, in their own Self-evident Light. Thus *Faith* is the *Evidence* of Things to the Mind, which are not at present *seen*, either by natural or spiritual *Sense*.—And as great an Evidence Faith is to the *Mind*, not to say a greater, of Things not *seen*, as the Eye is to the *Body*, of Things *perceptible* to it, when *present* before it. When a Man by the Eye of his Body, *sees* the Sun in its own Light; he hath thereby the most demonstrative *Evidence* that there is a *Sun*, and that it *shines*, and needs not another to acquaint him therewith. So when a Man by the Eye of Faith, *sees* Christ the Sun of Righteousness in his own Light, in the *Light* of his *Word* and *Spirit*; he hath the greatest *Demonstration* in himself, that there is such a Person as the *Christ of God, the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace*

and *Truth*, when he thus *beholds his Glory*; and needs not, under this Consideration, that another inform him thereof; but can join with the Apostles and primitive Saints, and say, *We see, (I see) Jesus*. And thus the *Things of Christ*, the *Truths*, the *Doctrines of Jesus*, are beheld in the same *Light*. In the *Light of Christ* by his *Holy Spirit*, cast upon the Soul thro' the written *Word*, they are view'd, receiv'd, and evidenc'd to by *Faith*; as *Things of the greatest Reality*, of infallible *Certainty*, and of infinite *Glory*.

Now then, my dear Brother, to close up all briefly: Hath not the *Gospel of Christ* come unto you, not in *Word* only, but in *Power*, and in the *Holy Ghost*, and in much *Assurance*? Hath not the *Person of Christ*, in all his *Glory and Fulness*, as the only and all-sufficient Saviour, been reveal'd in, and made exceeding precious to you, as a perishing Sinner? And han't you felt an Heart-alluring, a Soul-overcoming Power attend the Moments of Discovery, by which you was sweetly and strongly drawn, to give up *yourself* entirely unto Christ, and to take *him*, and *God* in him, for your present and eternal ALL? And han't the *Truths*, the *Doctrines of Jesus*, been known, felt and tasted by you, in their *Glory, Power, and Sweetness*? Han't the *Things of Christ*, declar'd in the written *Word*, been reveal'd in you by the *Spirit*, and receiv'd and enjoy'd by *Faith*, with ineffable Delight, as *Things of the greatest Reality*? And have not the *Things not seen*, the *Things hoped for*, the *Glories reserved for you in Heaven*, been realiz'd and evidenc'd unto you? Han't they been made to you, *Substance*, and not *Shadow, Entity*, and not *Fancy*? Yea, han't you had a sweet *Foretaste* of that everlasting *Feast* which awaits you; by which its *Reality*, and Part of its ineffable *Glory*, have been initially known by you? And have you not receiv'd a most sure *Earnest* of your *Inheritance in Light*; a Part of the Whole, whereby the Whole hath been initially possess'd by you, and forever ascertained unto you? I am persuaded, my Brother, that you can give a positive Answer to these Queries; and that the *Torture* your Soul feels by the Rack of Temptations, upon which you are at present stretch'd, proceeds from your *Interest* in the *Things of Christ*, and your *Union to Him*, as your *Life, your Bliss, your All in All*. You wou'd easily part with what was not
dear

dear to you, and give up *that* you cou'd live without. But in these plundering, racking Temptations, the Enemy would rob you of your *Substance*, and read away your *Life*, which puts your Soul to *Pain*. But be of good Cheer ; he is come too *late* too gain his Ends. You have said, can, and shall say, with *Peter*, when ask'd if he and the rest of the twelve Disciples would go away from Christ ? *Lord unto whom shall we* (shall I) *go ? Thou hast the Words of eternal Life*. And tho' for a while, the Tempter may be suffer'd to stretch you as it were to the *Utmost* : Yet he shall not be able to *seperate* you from *Christ*, from the *Love of God*, nor from any of its glorious *Fruits*, prepar'd for, and secur'd unto you in *him*. The Bands, the Ties, the Ligaments by which you are fastned to your *Head* and *Saviour*, can never be *broken*. And, *After you have suffer'd awhile, the God of all Grace, the God of Peace, will bruise Satan under your Feet, and perfect, stablish, strengthen and settle you*.—That this *Thorn in the Flesh*, this *Messenger of Satan* sent to buffet you, may be speedily remov'd and call'd off from you ; and till then, that the *Grace of Christ* may be sufficient for you, and his *Strength* made perfect in your *Weakness* : So prays, my dear Brother,

Yours most tenderly in the LAMB's Bowels,

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To Mr. P——ll.

My Dear Brother in Christ,

SINCE as a poor *Sinner*, you would always be looking to, and loving of the *Saviour* : Will you not love him as your *King*, as well as your *Priest* and *Prophet* ? Will not my dear Brother love the *Law* of Christ ? You well know that our loving Lord hath said, *If ye love ME, keep my Commandments*. And the *Words* which he *spake*, he tells us, were not *His* (that is, not *Originally*, or only) but *the Father's* which sent him. The *Law* of *Moses*, the moral *Law*, as a *Covenant* of *Works*, did indeed bring into *Bondage*. But since Christ was made under it, and fulfill'd it for us,

and has given it to us as the *Rule* of our Obedience; it is become *The perfect Law of Liberty*: And is of great, and perpetual Use to Believers: To shew us what is Duty, and what is Sin, to oblige us to the one, and to deter us from the other. The *moral Law* in the Hand of *Christ*, as given from the King of Saints to be a *Rule of Life*, to square our Actions by; is so far from bringing Believers into *Bondage*; that the more our Hearts and Lives are conform'd thereto, the more abundant, the more glorious is our *Liberty*, as the *Sons of God*. The *Law* to its Perfection, was in *Christ's Heart*: The *Law* to its Perfection, was in his *Obedience*. And the more we are conformed unto *Christ*, the more conformable shall we be in Heart and Life to the *Law of God*. And when made perfect in *Holiness*, we shall be perfectly conformed unto God's *holy Law*. And to a blest Eternity, shall *love the Lord our God with all our Hearts, Soul and Strength, and our Neighbour as ourselves*: Which is the *Sum and Substance* of the *Law's Requirement*. So long as the *Relation subsists* between the *Creator* and his *Creatures* of the Rational Kind, between the *Lord* and his *People*, between the *Saviour* and the *saved Ones*; I am persuaded, that the *moral Law* will *abide*, and be delightfully obey'd, by perfect Saints and Angels, in *Bliss* unknown, unto Ages without End.

The *Bible*, my dear Brother, that blessed Book, is indeed the *Book of Books*, and ought to be our chief Study. But let us not reject *other Books*, or neglect the reading of those wrote by Men, taught of God, and *mighty in the Scriptures*. We can't do this, without doing that which is forbidden in *God's Book*: viz. Without *quenching of the Spirit*, and *despising Prophecys*. We can't neglect the reading of *such Books* of human Composition, which the Lord affords his People in this Day of glorious Light; without slighting of those *Gifts*, which the ascended Saviour gives unto his Church, for the Edification of his Body, and neglecting the *Means* which the Lord affords us, of understanding his Mind in his own unerring Book. I look upon it to be one of *Satan's Devices*, to draw Men off from reading of Human Writings, by the specious Pretence of preferring the sacred Writings above all: That thereby, the Truths reveal'd, and the

the Errors discover'd in the Holy Scriptures, might not be so fully *known*, as they are when the Scriptures are *expounded*, and consistently *open'd*, by Men that are gifted of the Lord to be Teachers of his People. And therefore, as it concerns Christ's Honour, and our own Edification, it is the Wisdom of Saints, not to be *ignorant* of this Device, nor *caught* in this Snare which is laid for their Taking. — That the *Holy Ghost the Comforter*, may *guide you into all Truth*, and give you Fellowship with the same, unto your present Joy, and future Glory: is the sincere Desire of, dear Sir,

*Your affectionate Friend and
Servant in the LORD,*

L E T T E R XXXIV.

To Mr. L—s.

My dear Brother in our precious Lord,

YOURS I receiv'd, in which I perceive the kind Dealings of the Prince of Grace with you. In that having lov'd and bought you with his Blood, he resolves to have *all your Heart*. And therefore takes, and tares away your *Idols* from you.—Oh, my dear Brother, What Matter of Lamentation is it, that ever our wretched Hearts should slip away from CHRIST, that incomparably *fair*, that *altogether lovely* ONE! Whose *Love*, as well as *Loveliness*, is immensely *great*, and far surpasseth *Knowledge*! So *great a Lover*, as the LORD our Maker! And so *great a Love*, as to give his Life for Creatures, for Sinners, for Enemies, for such Wretches, who were brimful of Enmity against him: To espouse them to himself, and make them happy in, and glorious with him for ever! Oh *what Love*, *what Duty*, should such a *Lover*, and such a *Love* command from us, *the Beloved of the LORD*! How *great* is that Debt of Love and Loyalty, which the LORD's *Redeemed*, owe to the LORD-Redeemer! — And yet, *Hear O Heavens*, and *be astonished O Earth*! We, even we who are married unto the LORD, and have been ineffably happy in the Enjoyment of his Love; are *bent to backslide from him*, and to go *after other Lovers*! — *Melt*, Oh our hard *Hearts*! Be *asham'd* and *confounded*,
Oh

Oh our ungrateful *Souls* ! And turn ye to the LORD with *Weeping*, and with *Supplication* ; for still he will be *gracious* ! Oh my dear Brother, our Lord *knew* that we would deal *very treacherously* ; he *knew beforehand*, how rebellious and ungrateful we should prove : And yet he resolv'd to *die for us* ; tho' he *foresaw*, that we should *little regard* his dying Love ! — ' Oh unheard-of *Lover* ! Oh *Love* unknown ! Woo us, win us to thyself ! And change us into ' thy Love-Image ! Lord, we can't *bear* to be thus ungrateful ! And yet, alas ! Lord, we *can* ! Help *ourselves*, we cannot : Our Help is in *THEE* ! Love us into *Love*, and ' *Thine* we will be for Ever !'

Oh my Brother, The Love of CHRIST *suits us*. It is the Love of the LORD ! Which is Free without Motives ! Great, without Measure ! Constant, without Change ! Lasting without End ! A Sin-pardoning, a Sin-subduing, an All-conquering, a Grace-giving, a Glory-bestowing LOVE ! That will live and triumph in all its immense Glories, in our full Salvation and perfect Bliss, unto Ages without End ! — Our Dear Lord, did not set *his Love* upon us, to leave us in our *Unloveliness*. No ; CHRIST *loved the Church*, and gave himself for it : That he might *sanctify and cleanse it with the Washing of Water by the Word*, That he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having Spot or Wrinkle, or any such Thing ; but that it should be Holy and without Blemish, Eph. v. 25, 26, 27. The LORD our Lover, did not set his Love upon us and chuse us, because in his Foreview, we *were*, or *would be holy*, of and from *ourselves* ; but that we *should be so*, in and from HIM. And well able is the Love of CHRIST, to go on with this glorious Design of his Heart, to *sanctify us throughout*, or to make us *glorious in Holiness* ; because it is *strong Love* ! Strong, infinitely strong, to pass by innumerable Provocations ! And to overcome all Opposition ! Oh my Brother, the whole *Weight* of our Sanctification, *rests* upon CHRIST's *Love*, his Covenant-engaged Love ! This solid Basis, bears the Building. And this glorious Power, will bring forth the Top-Stone. — Well, as you said, may we take Courage, that trust in JESUS ; since HE has done all *for us*, and will do all *in us*. — Let us stand to our Arms, and in the Name of the LORD, set up our
Ban-

Banners against the Powers of Darkneſs. Our Captain will beat down our Foes before us; and cruſh all his and our Enemies, under his and our Feet. That mighty Love, which has made Sin a *Burden* to us; will free us from the Burden of *Sin*. — And let us tell other Souls, for their Encouragement, That the SAVIOUR can *love Sinners*, and that there is not a Soul in the World, that caſts itſelf upon the SAVIOUR's *Love*, for all Salvation; but ſhall, in *boundleſs, Love*, be ſaved by HIM to the uttermoſt! From the deepeſt Miſery to the higheſt Glory, from the utmoſt of its Fears, and to the utmoſt of its Deſires! Yea, unto ſuch Heights of Glory, which Eye hath not ſeen, nor Heart conceiv'd! — Be ſtrong, my Brother, be ſtrong and fear not. JESUS *loves you*: And *that's enough*. The whole of our Salvation and Happineſs is in it. You need not go out of the Love of CHRIST, from the Boſom of your Beloved, for one Moment's Deliverance from Miſery, nor for one Moment's Enjoyment of Felicity. You have *All* in HIM who is *your ALL*! Wherefore ſee that you live upon him as ſuch. *Delight yourſelf in the LORD: And HE ſhall give you the Deſires of your Heart*. And let every Soul, eſpouſed to CHRIST, ſay,

“ Why ſhould my fooliſh Paſſions rove!

“ Where can ſuch *Sweetneſs* be,

“ As I have taſted in *thy Love*?

“ As I have found in *THEE*!”

Great Grace be with you! — Pray for me. — That you more and more, *May be able to comprehend with all Saints, what is the Breadth and Length, and Depth and Height: And to know the Love of CHRIST, which paſſeth Knowledge, that you may be filled with all the Fulneſs of God!* is the earneſt Deſire of, dear Sir,

Your moſt affectionate Friend and Servant,

In our Faireſt, Deareſt, Sweeteſt LORD JESUS,

L E T T E R XXXV.

To Mr. C——ns.

My dear Brother,

THE *Work* of God upon your Soul, appears to me very clear and full. But perhaps you mayn't have ſuch clear Apprehen-

Apprehensions, about the *Time* when the Power of God first wrought on your Heart. Several of God's dear Children, begin to date their Conversion *later*, than the real Date of it is. This proceeds from an Apprehension, that the Soul's Conversion to God, begins at the Time when divine Consolations first overflow the Heart, and give the Soul Assurance of its Interest in the Lord Jesus. This being so sensibly sweet to the Soul, is remarked by it, for the *Day of God's Power*. And so indeed it may and ought, in regard of its being the more *full* and *sensible* Display of it; and the Time when the Soul is more *fully* and *sensibly* brought out of *Darkness*, into *God's marvellous Light*. But when *this* is so *fix'd*, for the Day of God's Power upon the Soul, as to *overlook* all the Operations thereof that went *before*, as *preparatory* to this; we have not so *full* an Apprehension of the Lord's *Work* upon us, nor give him the *full Glory* of his saving Operations, as we should.

You say, my dear Brother, " That some Time after you " was convinc'd of the Doctrines of the Gospel, you did not " know God, experimentally." And yet tell me, a little lower, " That in the whole Course of this Exercise (where- " in you was convinc'd of, and disputed for the Doctrines " of Grace) you plainly saw your *Fall from God by Nature*;" or were convinc'd of your lost miserable State. This, my Brother, was a glorious *Effect* of God's saving Power, working upon your Heart.—In your former Letter, you told me, " That " God had awakened you to *adore* Free-Grace, and the " Mystery of electing Love; &c."

Now be pleas'd to consider, there is a vast Difference, between a *Conviction* of the Doctrine of Grace in the *Head*, and an *adoring* the Grace of that Doctrine in the *Heart*. The first usually goes before, and there seems to be a Necessity that it should, in order to the other. For the Understanding must first *know* the Truth, before the Will can *embrace* it.—A *speculative* Knowledge of the Truth, that goes no further than a mere outward *Notion* of it; may be found in a *natural Man*. This *Knowledge* of the Truth, is a *cold*, *unaffecting*, and *unattracting* Knowledge; that leaves the Will and Affections just where it found them. A natural Man, indeed, may have some *natural Pleasure*, in getting
some

some *new Notions* of Truth ; but no *Soul-Attraction* to the *Things* known, doth he experience thereby.—And however natural *Notions* of Gospel-Truths, may be *subservient* to a spiritual Knowledge of them ; yet is a spiritual Discernment of the *Things* contain'd in those *Notions*, very *different* from a bare speculative Knowledge of them. In that, in the *one*, a mere empty *Notion* of the Truth, floats in the *Head* ; which effects only an outward *Adherence* to it. But in the *other*, the *Glory* of Truth shines into the *Mind* ; which produces a sweet and strict *Adherence* thereto, by all the inward *Powers* of the Soul. The Understanding *discerns* the Truth, in its Beauty, *Glory* and Excellency ; the Judgment *approves* it ; and the Will and Affections, *embrace*, and *clasp* about it. In a Word, the whole Soul, *unites* with the Truth, and is *chang'd* into the Image of it. And this you may see from two Texts. That the Truth shines into the *Mind*, in order to a spiritual *Understanding* thereof, see,

2 Cor. iv. 6. *For God who commanded the Light to shine out of Darkness, hath shined in our Hearts, to give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God, in the Face of Jesus Christ.* Oh, when the least Beam of Light, the least Ray of any Gospel-Truth in particular, or of the Truth of the Gospel, the Way of Salvation by Jesus Christ, in general, shines in upon the *Mind*, with such a ravishing Beauty, and majestick *Glory*, that draws the Heart to *love* it, and makes the Soul *bow down before it* : This is a *saving Illumination*, a new Creation Light, set up in the Soul of a Vessel of Mercy, which is the very *Beginning* of its future *Glory*. It is God's *commanding the Light*, the Light of Life, spiritual and eternal, to shine out of spiritual *Darkness* ; as in the first Creation, he *commanded the Light* natural, to shine out of natural *Darkness* : Or, it is God's *shining into our Hearts*, by a new creating Efficacy, to *give the Light*, not only of the *Knowledge* of God, but of the *Glory* of God, in the Face of Jesus Christ. Which Word imports, The ravishing *Beauty*, and All-attracting *Efficacy* of Gospel-Grace, darting in upon the Mind by a supernatural Revelation, which *unite* the Soul to the *Things* beheld, to the *Objects* revealed. This internal Revelation of Gospel-Truth, unites the Soul to the *Things*, the *Objects* reveal'd, in regard of *Approbation* ; and sets it

all in Motion, in regard of *Desire*, after the full Enjoyment of them, the nearest Coalition with, and most complacent Rest in them. And therefore, upon this *Hearing*, and *Learning* of the Father, the Soul *cometh* unto Christ. As,

John vi. 45. It is written in the Prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every Man therefore that hath heard and learned of the Father, cometh unto me. This Hearing, and Learning of the Father, is the same with his shining into our Hearts, to give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God, in the Face of Jesus Christ. And from this saying Illumination, the Soul feels a sweet and strong Attraction; by which, being drawn with Cords of Love, it cometh unto Christ. First, in its Desires after him, as beheld, altogether lovely! Before it comes to him in the Assurance of Faith, to take up its Rest in him, and say, My Lord, and my God! The first of these, is true, saving Faith, as well as the latter. They are but different Degrees of the same precious Faith, which cleaves to, and clasps about the precious SAVIOUR. The first may be, where the latter is not, or is in a great Measure wanting. — And the latter being more sweet and joyous, a more sensible Experience of divine Power on the Heart, and a more full Exercise of Faith on Christ; God's dear Children, do frequently date their Conversion from the latter, and too much overlook the former. — But wherever the Truths of the Gospel are known, and those in particular, which more immediately concern the Salvation of the Soul; and so known, in their Beauty and Excellency, as to knit and unite the Heart to them; or to draw out the Soul into Desires after, and Adoration of the Glories beheld, God in Christ, as the God of Grace and Peace, thro' a bleeding Jesus: That Man, is a regenerate Man, a converted Man; altho' he han't arriv'd to such a Degree of Faith on the Son of God, as to say, Who loved me, and gave himself for me. For the Desires of the Soul, cleaving to God in Christ, as the God of all Grace; are an Evidence, that the Soul is turned from Sin and Satan, from Self and the Law; or brought out of the State of Nature's Darkness, into the marvellous Light of Gospel Grace: In which alone, Salvation by Jesus Christ, is discern'd, approv'd, and adher'd to.

Now then, my dear Brother, consider, when you was convinc'd

convinc'd of the Doctrine of Original Sin, and Man's *Insufficiency*; did your *Convictions* thereof, reach no further than a bare empty *Notion* of these Truths, which floated in your *Head*, with respect to Men in *general*? Or did they reach *yourself*, and shew you that this was your *own Case* in *particular*? However the Beginning of your *Convictions* might reach your *Head* only; I believe they reach'd your *Heart* in the latter End of them. Else you could not say, 'That in the whole Course of this your Exercise, you plainly saw your *Fall*, (your *own Fall*) from God by Nature.' — And when you was convinc'd of your own Misery by *Sin*, and *Insufficiency* to *help* yourself; you may observe, That you was remov'd from *Nature's Bottom*, from Self-dependance, and doing for Life. And when this is the Case with any Soul, if another *Foundation* was not laid for it to *rest on*, it would utterly *sink*.

Again, consider, when you was convinc'd of imputed *Righteousness*; was your *Conviction* hereof a mere empty *Notion* in your *Head*, that there was such a *Thing*, such a Provision of Grace made for the Salvation of *some*? Or did it reach *yourself* in particular, and shew you, that *you* must be sav'd in *this Way*, if ever you was sav'd at *all*? How did your *Heart* *behave* toward the *Righteousness* of Christ, when you was doctrinally convinc'd of it? Did you ever see any Beauty, Excellency and Glory in it? Did your *Heart* ever *fall down* before the Majesty of it; and *desire* for yourself, that you might be *found in Christ*, and in his *Righteousness alone*, not having on your own *Righteousness*! If so, the *Conviction* which you then had of imputed *Righteousness*, was *saving*; Or, a glorious *Effect* of the almighty Power of divine Grace, working upon your *Soul*, for your *everlasting Salvation*: Altho' you might not have a comfortable *Knowledge*, that the *Righteousness* of Christ was *yours*, until some Time afterward. Until the Time you date your Conversion from, when you could willingly have *departed to be with Christ*: Which must proceed from a comfortable *Persuasion* of your *Interest* in him.

But whether your Apprehensions about the *Time* of the Lord's first working upon your *Heart*, may be *clear and distinct*, or not: This may be Matter of Joy to you, that you can

say, with the Man whose Eyes Christ had opened, *One Thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see*, John ix. 25.—And that your dear Soul continually may grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of CHRIST, until that which is in *Part* is done away, and that which is *perfect* shall come: When you shall *know*, even as you are *known*; is the earnest Desire of, dear Sir,

Your tender Friend, in the Bowels of JESUS CHRIST,

LETTER XXXVI.

To Mr. L——s.

Dear Brother,

I Thank you for your last kind Letter. I embrace the first Opportunity to answer it. I sympathize with you in the Bowels of JESUS CHRIST. Be of good Cheer, my Brother. For tho' you are under a *Cloud*; the *Sun* will break out upon you *again*. And mean Time, your JESUS is still the *same*, in his Person, Love and Fulness; the same for you as ever. The Changes which pass over you, make no Alteration in HIM. HE is in *one Mind*, to love you for ever, and save you to the uttermost; and none can *turn him*: None of all your Enemies within, nor without you. Your JESUS, in all his Dispensations towards you, is always *loving* and *saving* you. HE is always doing you *Good*, even by the greatest *Evils* that pass over you. Wherefore, *rest* by Faith in his Love, Wisdom, Power and Faithfulness. *Commit yourself*, and all your *Concerns* to your dear LORD JESUS, that cares for you as his *own*: And all Things shall end *well*. CHRIST is *All* for you to GOD, the *Whole* of your Acceptance with the Father, when your inherent Grace and Holiness are at the greatest *Height*. And when these are at the lowest *Ebb*; CHRIST's Acceptableness to GOD, and *yours* in HIM, abates not a *Whit*. The Acceptance of your *Person*, in the great Person and Obedience of GOD's *Beloved*, is an *unchangeable, everlasting* Acceptance: That neither *rises*, nor *falls*, with the *Variation* of your Frames. You are *complete* in CHRIST: Nothing is wanting *there*, to
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make you a *perfect Beauty* in the Eye of GOD; even now, tho' you are so *imperfect in yourself*. And CHRIST is about the Work of *perfecting you*, in your own Soul. From his perfect Beauty *imputed*, a Perfection of Beauty shall be *imparted*. Your JESUS, is made of GOD unto you, not only *Righteousness*, but *Sanctification*: The communicative Fountain of it: That will *fill* all the Cavities of your Heart, all the Powers and Faculties of your Soul, your whole Nature, *brimful, running-over full*, for evermore! — And when our dear LORD is about to *fill us*, to add new Measures, and bless us with greater Increases of Holiness, HE always *empties us*; shews our great Emptiness and Want. And then, with his own infinite Fulness, HE flows out upon us, in rich Supplies, unto Joy and Bliss, that Strangers intermeddle not with! — And so wonderfully doth our LORD Work, that he makes us *holy*, even by that *Withdraw* of the sensible Influence of his Holy Spirit, which is the greatest *Burden* that our Souls feel. That is, HE *over-rules* every Kind and Degree of Withdraw of Influence, with whatever of Weakness and Evil we see and feel in ourselves at such Seasons, to make us *more holy*, and *stronger in Grace*, when He returns again with the quickning, strengthening, sanctifying Influences of his blessed Spirit! HE that hath *begun* the good *Work* in us, will *perform it*: And in infinite Wisdom, carries it on by *Contraries*. By a Variety of Frames, a Variety of Experience is given us; and a Variety of Grace, or the various Displays of Grace, according to the manifold Wisdom of GOD, shall be usher'd in upon us. All Things are under a Blessing to us. Let us therefore love and bless GOD in all. Let us *watch* against *Sin*, and especially that *great*, that *Flood-gate Sin*, that lets in all other upon us, *Unbelief*. Let us *follow* after Holiness, *dread* Distance from GOD, and a selfish, careless, lifeless Spirit in Religion. Let us be *diligent* and *conscientious* in Duty, and in the Path Way thereof, believing on CHRIST daily, for fresh Supplies of Grace, let us *follow on to know the LORD*: And we shall know HIM. — Great Grace be with you! Pray for,

Yours affectionately in CHRIST,

LETTER

LETTER XXXVII.

To Mr. C——ns.

My very dear Brother in Christ,

YOURS, I gladly receiv'd, and thankfully acknowledge. Your Letter, thro' the Lord's Working, gave me much Satisfaction and Pleasure. I rejoice that my last was made sweet to your Soul, and convincing to your Mind, with respect to the Lord's saving Operations on your Heart, being somewhat *earlier* than you thought of. For which we both, will join in Thanksgiving, now and for evermore.

I don't wonder, my dear Brother, considering your Circumstances especially, that you did not so particularly *notice* the Manner and Time of those *first* gracious Operations which you happily *felt*. The LORD the Holy Ghost, in his saving Work of Grace on the Heart, in producing, maintaining and increasing the new Life, often works, as it were under Ground, out of our Sight. It is one Thing to *feel* special, gracious Operations; and another, to *know* that they are saving, and what Part of the Spirit's Work to refer them to. Thousands of his blessed Operations, we soon let *slip*, and *forget* what he hath wrought for us. And those we remember *best*, Alas! by reason of Weakness, we see not a Thousandth Part of their *Glory*! We view the Holy Ghost's Work on our Hearts now, as it were in *scatter'd Parcels*, here one Piece; and there another, and see but *little* of the Order, Beauty, Variety and Glory of his harmonious Operations. But when the Whole of his Work upon us in Grace, in order to our Meetness for Glory, is finish'd, and we brought into the Land of Rest; we shall with inconceivable Joy *remember, all the Way which the Lord led us thro' the Wilderness*. We shall see, as it were with *one View*, the *Whole* of his great Work upon us and for us, in the State and Majesty of a God! In which he all along wrought, thro' ten Thousand Difficulties and Contrarieties in his Way; And then shall give him the full Glory of all his Grace. According to the utmost Measure of our Creature Capacity; tho' infinite Love, in its deserved Glory, adequate to the

Displays

Displays thereof, will for ever remain in its own exalted Sphere, *far above all our Blessing and Praise!*

When God had reveal'd CHRIST in you, my dear Brother, He brought you a *Cross* to bear. And much I rejoice, that he enabled you to *take it up*. Tho' to follow your Lord, was to be slighted, set at nought, and deserted by all; even by the strict, *Pharisaical* Part of Mankind, as well as by the profane World. Oh my Brother, the *Cross*, the Cross of CHRIST, few will bear it. How many are there, that are under good Impressions at Times, and have some mind to *Christ*, at least, to *eternal Life*, that lose their *Souls*, because they will not, cannot take up the *Cross*! To follow Christ fully, is to lose the Favour of the World wholly. To part with every Thing that is desirable to a carnal Heart: As, Riches, Honours, sinful Pleasures, Self-Righteousness, fleshly Wisdom, worldly Worship, Friends, Relations, yea, even one's own Life, (if call'd to it) to hate and despise even *that*, in Comparison of CHRIST. And *who*, oh *who* will do *this*! What, part with *all*! Be stript quite *naked*, and *naked* follow a *naked* Christ, in the Face of Scoffs and Scorns, Cruelty and Rage, from Men and Devils! Oh, *who can*, *who will* do this! *None* but those happy Souls, who are blest with an internal Revelation of the SAVIOUR'S Glory, and a Heart-Attraction unto him thereby. Oh none but *they*, that see the *Pearl of great Price*, to be of inestimable *Worth*, will part with *all*, to secure *that Pearl*. None but *they*, who see the Person, Love, and Glory of CHRIST, to be infinitely more *Worth* than *Thousands of Worlds*! Will part with this *one* silly World for HIM. And *they*, were there *Millions of Worlds*, more glorious far, would part with *all*, for *one* JESUS, and run on crying, (as that dear Martyr in the Flames) '*None but CHRIST! None but CHRIST!*' Oh, none but CHRIST, can satisfy a Soul that is born from *Above*. And with the blessed Enjoyment of HIM, in whom all the Fulness of the GODHEAD dwells, shall every such Soul, be fully and eternally *satisfied*.

See you not then, my Brother, the rich, free, distinguishing Grace of God, in *revealing his Son in you*, and in attracting your Heart after him by the Cords of his Love, in
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the *Day of his Power* ; so that you forsook *all*, for *one* CHRIST ! Oh happy, happy, thrice happy Soul ! *All hail !* CHRIST is *yours*, and you are *his* ! You have Happiness, Joy and Security enough. A Bundle of Bliss, a Mass of Treasure, a Sea of Delights ; enough to fill every Corner of your Soul, was it ten thousand thousand Times more capacious than it is, brimful, running-over full, of Joy and Glory, thro' Time and to Eternity, in your *one* LORD JESUS ! Oh *possess* your Portion. *Live* upon your Heritage. It is wondrous *Great !* Behave as an *Heir of God !* And let this little, dirty World, which Mr. Rutherford calls, “ The “ Clay-Portion of Bastards,” be under your Feet.—And still, my dear Brother, delight to *deny yourself* in all Respects for CHRIST ; and taking up your Lord's *Cross*, follow hard after him daily. His infinite Love and Power, will make it *sweet* and *easy*. And oh the *Crown*, the immortal Crown of Glory, that awaits Cross-bearers ! *If any Man serves me*, says our Lord, *let him follow me* ; (let him deny himself, and take up his Cross and come after me) *and where I am, there shall also my Servant be : If any Man serve me, him will my Father honour*. By and by, you shall *see* CHRIST *as he is*, and be *for ever with the Lord* : Where Crosses shall be no more, but Joy and Glory in endless Store ! And oh, my dear Brother, the *Smart* of all you ever endur'd for Christ, will not only then be *over* ; but the Remembrance of every Cross you endur'd, will yield you an eternal *Pleasure*, in as much as thereby, you glorify'd your *Lord* on the Earth : Which will enhance your Joy, when glorify'd *with him* in Heaven. And oh, the beauteous, the fair Colours of Glory, which our Lord will lay upon his Followers *there*, the Stones of his holy Temple, who have been carv'd and meetned by the Cross for it *here*. Those, my Brother, are the most holy, happy Christians, the most God-honouring Souls, and the richest Heirs of endless Glory, that do and suffer *most* for CHRIST in the present State. And especially the *Sufferers* : For, *Blessed is the Man that endureth Temptation : for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promis'd to them that love him*. Wherefore, be in Love with the Cross of Christ ; and ask for Wisdom and Grace, to bear it after him continually, in the same *Spirit*, shewing forth

forth all those *Graces*, which so gloriously shone, in the *meek* and *lowly* Son of God ! And unto you, who thus *continue with him in his Temptations*, will he *appoint a Kingdom*. Unto you, as an *Overcomer*, will he *grant to sit with him in his Throne* ; even as he also overcame, and is set down with his Father in his Throne.

A glorious Privilege, indeed it is, my Brother, that tho' you have so much *Sin* in you, it doth not *reign* over you. The Reign of Grace has destroy'd the Dominion of Sin, will still subdue its Power, and utterly extirpate its Being, in the Lord's Way and Time. Wherefore, go on to look to JESUS, as once made Sin for you. Who has overcome Sin in himself, and will overcome it in you. And *reckon yourself* continually, *to be dead indeed unto Sin, and alive unto God in Christ Jesus*. For a glorious Influence you will derive from thence, to mortify Sin, and quicken Grace in you. —I forget you not before the Lord. Continue to remember me. I esteem it a Privilege. The Lord will hear you. I and others will fare the better for it : And you in no wise shall lose your Reward.—My dear Love to the Brethren. May a Spirit of Love, Humility and Meekness reign amongst them : And those that minister unto them of the Word of Life, be esteem'd very highly by them in Love, for their Work Sake ! —I commit the keeping of your Soul to the great Shepherd. May he deliver you from every evil Work, and preserve you safe unto his heavenly Kingdom ! The Lord make you a burning and a shining Light in this dark World ! And grant you an exalted Sphere, among the starry Glories of the first Resurrection ! —Most heartily I bid you *farewel* in the Lord ! And am, dear Sir,

Yours most affectionately,

In our dear JESUS,

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

To Mr. W——rd.

My dear Brother in Christ,

Y OUR last kind Letter I receiv'd, and return you hearty Thanks.—I rejoice for the great Things which the

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LORD

LORD hath done for your Soul. In revealing his dear Son in you, and in giving you Freedom of *Access* to the Father, thro' him, by the Holy Spirit; of *Entrance* into the holiest, by the *Blood of Jesus*. Christ, indeed, a crucified Jesus, is the only *Way* to the Father. Oh this *new*, this *living Way*, thro' the *Vail of his Flesh*! It is thro' this *rent Vail* of his human Nature, thro' his Soul and Body being *rent* asunder for us on the Cross, that we have *Access to God*. Unto God as the God of Peace, as the God of all Grace, as the God and Father of Christ, and our God and Father in and thro' him. Oh this Way of Access, thro' a dying SAVIOUR, suits a *Sinner well*. It is a Way of Life to us. And blessed for ever be the Lord our God, it is a *consecrated Way*. A Way that is consecrated for us, sanctify'd, or set apart for us to walk in. It is an *High-way*, an *holy Way*, yea, the *Way of Holiness*; that is holy to God, that is holy for us, that makes all *holy*, tho' the vilest of Sinners in themselves, that walk in it by Faith. It makes us holy *representatively*; it makes us holy *influentially*.—Go on, my dear Brother, to walk in this Way. God the Father, likes a *Sinner well*, that comes unto him, thro' the active and passive Obedience of his Law-fulfilling, and once-bleeding Son. He sees no *Spot* in that Man; but beholds him *all-fair*; wash'd from all Sin in the Redeemer's Blood, and richly array'd with the glorious Robe of his perfect Righteousness. And in infinite condescending Grace, he says unto him, *Come near now, and kiss me, my Son*. God the Father permits a *Sinner*, yea, calls him, to be *familiar* with him thro' the SAVIOUR. He owns him for his Son, smells the Smell of his Raiment, drest in the Garments of his elder Brother, blesteth him, and saith, *See, the Smell of my Son, is as the Smell of a Field which the LORD hath blessed*.—Thus the Chief of Sinners, that come unto God by Christ, are *welcom'd* into his Presence, *pleasing* to him, and *blessed* by him, with all spiritual and temporal Blessings, in Measure, Manner and Time, (as to their Communication thro' Christ, upon the Bottom of their eternal Preparation for us, and Bestowment upon us *in him*) according to the Infinity of *Jehovah's Grace*: *Wherein he hath abounded towards us in all Wisdom and Prudence*.

And tho', my dear Brother, you and others are cast out
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of Mr. *W*——y's Society, for saying, " That Christ loves you, and will love you to the End." And, " That all your Perfection is in Christ, and in him alone." Be not grieved at it; since Christ admits you into more intimate Fellowship with *Him*, than many of your Brethren are favour'd with. Yea, so far as you suffer for the *Truth* herein, for your Witness-bearing for Christ; *Rejoyce, and be exceeding glad: For great is your Reward in Heaven.* — And as thro' remaining Darknesh, there are now unhappy Differences among the Saints; Rejoyce in Hope of that happy Day, when we shall all see *Eye to Eye*. When we shall all come in the *Unity of the Faith, and of the Knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect Man, unto the Measure of the Stature of the Fulness of Christ.* And *Know, as we are Known.*

A glorious Truth, and an unspeakable Privilege it is, That Christ *loves his Own*, and will love them unto the *End*. And blessed, O blessed is that Man, who is favour'd with the Witness of the Holy Spirit, as to his own *Interest* in the SAVIOUR's *Love*! In his free, unchangeable and everlasting Love! Oh what a comfortless Doctrine is that, Of *Falling from Grace*! Of *Losing our Interest in the Love of JESUS*! Oh was there a Possibility of this; what solid Peace, what strong Consolation could any Soul have, that sees his own Vileness and Weakness? His Iniquity, and Inability to keep *Himself* from falling?

Indeed we are bid to *keep ourselves in the Love of God*, Jude 21. But the *Love* of God here, respects his *manifestative* Favour, and not the Love of his *Heart*. Which stands immutably the *same* in Himself, upon the sovereign good Pleasure of his own Will, to love us, and is quite *independent* upon our Goodness.—And in this Love we are bid to *keep ourselves*. Not *efficiently*; That is *God's Work*. And so *we are kept by the Power of God, thro' Faith unto Salvation*. But *instrumentally*; As our Duty is hereby enjoin'd, of being diligent in the Use of all those appointed *Means*, thro' which the Lord is pleas'd to bless us with the fresh *Displays* of his everlasting Kindness. — And if we are negligent in the Use of Means, *if we walk not in his Statutes, and keep not his Commandments*; our Father will rebuke us with the *Hidings* of his Face, with the *Eclipses* of his infinite Fa-

vour. *Nevertheless his Loving-kindness, He will not take away : His Heart-Love, his Covenant-Love, He will not infringe. No, the Love of his Heart, fixt on us in Christ, the Resolve of his Will, to be gracious to us thro' him, and his Covenant with us in him, stand fast unto all Generations. And blessed is the Soul, that stands fast in the Faith of that Love, which stands firmer than the solid Mountains, and the lasting Hills. That was from Everlasting in Commencement, and is to Everlasting, in Duration, without the least Change, or Shadow of Turning.*

And as to *absolute Perfection*, it is a most certain Truth, That there is none in *ourselves*. All our Perfection, in this Regard, is in *Christ*, and in *him alone*. And a most comfortable, glorious Thing it is, to view our Perfection in our perfect Head, in him, in whom we *are complete*, absolutely so, *lacking Nothing*. And a glorious Influence hath such believing Views of our Compleatness in Christ, to make us personally, inherently, and increasingly Holy.

There is no Danger of asserting our absolute Perfection in Christ, and in *him alone* ; so long as a *real*, tho' *partial Perfection* in *us*, is asserted together with it. That is, so long as the *new Man*, or *new Nature* in the Soul, is acknowledg'd, which is perfect as to *Parts*, tho' yet imperfect as to *Degrees* ; and the Necessity of the *Truth* and *Increase* of inherent and personal Holiness, in Heart, Lip and Life, is asserted.

Our absolute Perfection in Christ, our complete Holiness in him ; is *God's Foundation*, upon which he builds our inherent and personal Holiness ; upon which he begins, increaseth, and will perfect Holiness in *us*. And it ought to be *our Foundation*, upon which our Faith rests, and upon which it works, in all its Labour after an Advance of personal Holiness in *Heart and Life*.

In believing Views then, of our Completeness in Christ, of that Perfection which we now have in *Him*, and shall shortly have *thro' him* ; let us labour to be *like him*, to grow up more and more into Conformity to him, as Members of such a holy Head, as Branches of such a holy Root. — So shall our Faith be strong, our Joy full, and our Holiness genuine and increasing. Or, rise apace, towards the Glory
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of that perfect Day, when *Holy and without Blame before God in Love*, we as his chosen, his redeemed, his sanctified Ones, shall be, *To the Praise of the Glory of his Grace*, in Christ, thro' the endless Ages of a blest Eternity! — *Wishing all Joy and Peace in Believing*; and that *The God of Peace* may sanctify you wholly, in Spirit, Soul and Body, *working in you that which is well pleasing in his Sight thro' Christ Jesus*: In him, I am, dear Sir,

*Your Affectionate Friend and
Humble Servant,*

L E T T E R XXXIX.

To Mrs. L——n.

My dear Friend,

YOU told me your Concern, lest you should *perish*, by reason of your *Ignorance*. Glad am I, that the Lord hath *shewn* you your Malady, your Disease, your Soul-sickness, which threatens your eternal Death. — Now you are *sick*, you have *need of the Physician*. Now you see your Sickness as a Sinner, the SAVIOUR will be desired by you. It is the *Depth* of Soul-Misery, to be *insensible* of it. The *Strength* of our Spiritual Disease, to think that we are *Whole*, and that nothing *ails* us. — Oh the dreadful Misery of Thousands round about us, who are at *Ease*, and think all will be well with them at *last*, tho' they are just ready to *die in their Sins*, and to *perish for ever*! They are as it were, at the Edge of a Whirlpool, just ready to be swallow'd up in *endless Perdition*; and yet, alas, they *know it not*! They are *unconcern'd*; and wonder to see *others* so much concern'd about their Souls; and think their earnest Concern for Salvation, is but Folly and Madness. Oh *these* are they that are *Whole* in their own Conceit, and have no sensible *Need* of the *Physician*. These are they, that see no Beauty in the CHRIST of GOD, in the SAVIOUR of Sinners, that they should desire him. They hope to be sav'd from *Hell* at last; but as for Salvation from *Sin*, and all the woful *Effects* of it in their Souls, they are altogether unconcerned. And thus being insensible of their Misery by *Sin*, they neglect the

Remedy,

Remedy, CHRIST, and his great Salvation. And abiding in *this State*, they must *perish eternally*. But when God designs Mercy for miserable Sinners, he quickens them to a *Sense* of their Misery, and thereby *prepares* them to receive Mercy.

Hark then, my dear Friend, are you *sensible* of your Misery? Are you *sick, Sin-sick*? The *Physician* is provided on Purpose for you. The SAVIOUR has Mercy in Store for you. You shall not *die*. *There is Balm in Gilead, there is a Physician there*. There is *Healing* for you in the Blood of CHRIST, there is an *Healer* in God's Covenant, a SAVIOUR provided, and a *great One*, that every Way suits your Case.—And since you need him, come to him. Oh *come*, and you shall be *welcome*. Come, tell the *Lord Jesus*, that you are an *ignorant Creature*. He can have *Compassion on the Ignorant*, and on them that are out of the *Way*. He will not upbraid you with your Ignorance, but pity and compassionate your Soul under it. He has *Wisdom* enough in himself to *teach you*, to make you *wise unto Salvation*. *All the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge are in him*. And he is made of God unto us *Wisdom*. As all the Perfections of Wisdom and Knowledge meet in *him*; so they are *treasur'd up* in him for *us*; to be communicated to such foolish Sinners as *we*. He is a Saviour in *Office*; it is his Office to *teach the Ignorant*. God the Father has appointed him to save Sinners, from their Soul-destroying Ignorance. And, *Good and upright is the LORD: Therefore will he teach Sinners in the Way*, Psal. xxv. 8.

Oh, the LORD the SAVIOUR is *good*, infinitely *good*! Good, to compassionate Sinners in their utmost Folly, according to the Measure of their Distress. As he is infinite in Wisdom, and fully knows the Case of every miserable Sinner that comes unto him; so he is a most *merciful High-Priest*, that is inwardly *touched* with a *Feeling* of all our Grievs. By an inexpressible Sympathy with us, he doth as it were, make them his *own*. His Heart is made of *Tenderness*. A boundless Sea of Compassions meet in it; into which, he takes the *Case* of every miserable Sinner that comes unto him.—And can he then send them *away empty*? No; he cannot thus *deny himself*, in his infinite *Goodness*. And therefore, because he is *good*, because he delighteth in Goodness, in free,

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unmerited Goodness, in boundless, unlimited Goodness, in exercising Loving-kindness ; he will relieve us, notwithstanding our Poverty, and to the utmost of our Wants, according to his own unsearchable Riches, and immense Fulness.

And as the LORD the SAVIOUR is infinitely good ; so he is infinitely *faithful* to him that appointed him, to God the Father, who call'd him to be our SAVIOUR, and to his own Engagements to save us, even every poor Soul, that comes unto God by him.—Come then, my dear Friend, come to *Jesus Christ*, and *shew before him all your Trouble*. Put your *Case*, commit your Soul into his Hands ; and he will undertake for you. He *will not*, from his infinite Goodness, from his infinite Faithfulness, yea, let me say with Reverence, he *cannot* deny your Request : He will *save you to the Uttermost*. The SAVIOUR is GOD, and cannot *lie*, nor *repent*. The Word is gone out of his Mouth, in infinite Goodness, in infinite Faithfulness : That *he will in no wise cast out*, any poor, miserable Soul, *that cometh unto him*, John vi. 37. It is not possible that you should *perish*, if you *come to JESUS*. He will *receive you to the Glory of God* : To save you from endless Misery, to eternal Glory. Question not his infinite Goodness, doubt not his infinite Faithfulness : They are like the *great Mountains*, yea, *firmer* than the lasting Hills. *For the Mountains shall depart, and the Hills be removed* : But the *Kindness* of CHRIST's Heart to Sinners, shall never *be removed*. His Grace, cannot *change*. His Compassions, never *fail*. Heaven and Earth shall pass away : But the Faithfulness of CHRIST to his Engagements, to his Word of Promise given to save Sinners, and every one that comes unto him, can never fail. Not a Jot, nor Tittle of his Word, concerning their Salvation, shall pass away, until all be fulfilled.

And because the LORD the SAVIOUR is thus *good* and *upright*, merciful and true ; therefore will he *teach* Sinners *in the Way*. Oh, they are *Sinners*, chief Sinners, unworthy, God-provoking, Hell-deserving Sinners, that the LORD the SAVIOUR delights to *save*, and is in *Office* to save to the *Uttermost* ! He will teach these in the *Way*, in *The Way of Life*, *which is above to the Wise, to depart from Hell beneath*. He will teach Sinners, even the most ignorant, and make the

Way

Way of Life so plain before them, That a *way-faring Man*, a poor Soul that desires to go from Earth to Heaven, tho' a *Fool*, shall not *err* therein. And this because, He is given to be a *Light* to them that sit in *Darkness*; to guide our *Feet* into the *Way of Peace*. And has promis'd, to bring the *Blind* by a *Way* which they knew not, to lead them in *Paths* which they have not known: To make *Darkness* *Light* before them, and crooked Things straight. And to do these Things unto them, and not forsake them, Isa. xlii. 16.

See then, my dear Friend, what Encouragement you have to come to CHRIST. Oh stay not a Moment longer, doubting whether he will *receive* you, but come and see. Oh venture in to CHRIST: Say, as Queen *Esther*, *I will go in unto the King!*—And if I perish, I perish: And see if you find not *Grace* in the Eyes of the LORD. The SAVIOUR will hold out the *Sceptre* of his princely Grace, his promis'd Mercy, for you to *touch* and live. Cast yourself down at his Feet in all your Uncleaness, and say as that poor *Leper*, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And JESUS, moved with *Compassion*, will say unto you, as he did unto him, *I will; be thou clean*. CHRIST can save you with a *Word*. HE can speak all Salvation to you, by *Way of Grant*, in an *Instant*. Even all that you want for Soul and Body, for Time and for Eternity. And his great Word, of free unchanging Promise, will bring all Salvation to you, thro' Thousands of Improbabilities, over Mountains of Opposition, thro' Seas of Difficulty, with glorious Triumph, to his endless Praise. And tho' he should seem to *hide* himself from you, and be *silent* for a while; yet go not from him, follow him with your earnest Cries, until he gives you an *Answer of Peace*. When he *designs* Mercy for Souls, he often *tries* their Faith and Patience. Because he loves to display his Almighty Power in supporting us, under greatest Pressures; to see us follow hard after him, when he seems to go from us; to commend his infinite Grace, in bringing Salvation to us in the fittest Season; and thereby to endear himself, and his saving Love exceedingly to our Souls. Oh, in the Mount, the LORD will be *seen*! Our Extremity, is his Opportunity. Remember our Lord's Carriage to the Woman of *Canaan*. And if he should so try you; let his seeming *Denial* of
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your Request, put you upon pleading with him more earnestly. Till he say unto you, as unto her, *O Woman, great is thy Faith : Be it unto thee, even as thou wilt.—The Grace of Christ be with your Spirit !* So prays,
Your affectionate Friend,

L E T T E R XL.

To Mrs. M.—s.

My very dear Sister in Christ,

IT pleaseth the Lord to exercise me with much bodily Weakness. But blessed be his Name, he gives me sweet Submission to his Will, and Acquiescence with his good Pleasure. I long for nothing so much, as to believe in, love and adore my God in every Thing. Verily, *he hath done*, he doth and will do, *all Things well*. As is most conducive to his own Glory, our present Happiness, and eternal Bliss.—We are very apt to make *Mistakes* : Which is the Cause of much of our *Heaviness* under trying Providences.

We are apt to think, that this and the other *Thing*, would be for *God's Glory*, which we desire for that End. But our *great LORD*, who is *great* in Might, whose Understanding is *infinite*, doth perfectly see, that that *Thing* which he denies us of, or at that *Time*, in which he is not pleas'd to bestow it ; would *not* be most for his Honour.—Oh my dear Sister, if we love above all Things, God's Honour ; let us lay out in our projecting Minds, *this* and *that*, which he hath promis'd, according to the Rule of his Word ; and let us bring the *Things* we wish for, in earnest Prayer before him : Let us seek, yea, wrestle with him for the Performance of all his promis'd Goodness, of the good Word which he hath spoken, concerning his Church in general or particular, relating to ourselves or others, about which our Desires are engag'd. And let us leave the *Manner* and *Time* of the Lord's bestowing the Things we request, entirely to *him* : Who is *wonderful in Council*, and *excellent in Working*. For there shall not fail ought of *all the good Things which the LORD hath spoken*. Nor will he fail to *satisfy us* with his infinite Goodness, as shall be most for the *Glory* of his great

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Name. And let us give him Leave to be Judge of that *himself*; and humbly bow unto his good Pleasure, and joyfully flow into his all-wise Dispose.

Again, we are apt to think, that this and that *Thing* would be most for *our Happiness*; and to desire it for that End. But the LORD, who loves us infinitely, who is infinitely wise, doth well know, that those *Things* we seek, which he denies, or at those *Times* we wish, in which he gives them not, would *not* augment our Bliss, but lessen it. Well our heavenly Father *knows* what we have *need of*; and that which is *good* he will *give*; and that which would do us *Hurt*, or at that *Time*, in which it would not be *best* for us, he will *deny* us of, however hardly we may take it.—Yet will he in no wise deny us any of the *Petitions* we ask of him in the Name of Jesus, according to his revealed *Will* in his *Word*, for his Glory and our Happiness; but grant them *all*, as a God *hearing Prayer*, either in the *Things* we ask, or in those that are *better*; at the *Times* we request them in, or at Seasons that are more *fit*, in which they shall appear most serviceable, beautiful and glorious.

Let us beware then, that we yield not to unbelieving *Heaviness* in trying Seasons; and cheerfully let us wait in *Faith*, for most gracious *Answers* to all our Prayers, from *Jacob's God*, who hath not said to the Seed of *Jacob*, *Seek ye Me in vain*. Let us go on to seek him, that we may glorify him; and *our Hearts shall live, that seek God*. Great shall be *his Glory*, in our Salvation; and *our Happiness*, in his Honour. *The LORD hath made all Things for himself*; and is *glorify'd* in all his Dispensations, both of Grace and Providence; and *most glorify'd* in those Ways and Times, in which he is pleas'd to work; and let us glorify him in *all*. We are happy in God, and in his *good Pleasure*; in his all-wise, all-gracious, and sovereign Dispose of all Things concerning us. And for his Glory, and our Happiness it is, to esteem Things as they are; and in *every Thing* to give *Thanks*: For this is the *Will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us*.---Wishing all Supports, under all Pressures, all Consolations, under all Dejections, all gracious Supplies, under all Trials, and all Assistance, for all active Service; that the *Name of our Lord may be glorify'd in you, and you in him,*
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according to the Grace of God, and of our Lord Jesus Christ:
In him, my dear Sister, I am

Yours very affectionately,

L E T T E R XLI.

To Mr. P—ll.

Dear Sir,

I Should have been glad of a Line from you before this Time, and hope to hear from you soon. I trust, JESUS hears from you often, and that there is sweet Communion maintain'd between him and you. Oh dear Sir, he loves you infinitely ! His whole Heart, is fix'd upon you in Love. *He is in one Mind*, to love you freely, fully, unchangeably and eternally ; *and who can turn him ?* None of all your Enemies, within or without, shall ever *seperate you from the Love of Christ*. He did not set his Love upon you, nor chuse you, because you was *better* than others by Nature ; nor yet for your *foreseen Goodness*, after your Conversion by Grace. Ah no. *He knew that we were obstinate, that our Neck was an Iron Sinew, and our Brow, Brass ; and that we were call'd Transgressors from the Womb*, both in Nature and Grace. And yet, he *could*, he *would* love us ; merely from the infinite Grace of his own *Heart*, and the sovereign good Pleasure of his *Will*. Oh how sad would be our Case, if the Love of *Christ's Heart*, in the least depended upon our *Goodness* ! Alas, the Goodness of our *Frames*, is too oft like the *Morning-Dew*, that quickly passeth away. And we, wretched we, behave towards our kind Lord, as if we were not his special Favourites. *We forget God our Saviour, and lightly esteem the Rock of our Salvation*. Oh Soul-humbling, Heart-breaking Consideration ! and especially, if we consider, that the LORD our Lover, will not forget us, nor cast us out of his Esteem, nor off from his kind Regard, for all that we have done ! Oh, *who is like unto our God !* A GOD that pardoneth Iniquity, that passeth by the Transgression of the Remnant of his Heritage, that retaineth not his Anger for ever : *Because he delighteth in Mercy !*—And how should the bright Shine of God's all-overcoming Love, melt down our hard Hearts, into a swift Flow of Love and Gratitude to him ! And how doth it, when the Energy of

infinite Grace, of free, rich, distinguishing and eternal Grace, reacheth the Heart of a vile Sinner, of a backsliding Believer, in the great Power of GOD ! Oh it is well for us that we are under Grace. Grace, *that forgives our Iniquities, that heals our Diseases ! That redeems our Life from Destruction, and crowns us with Loving-kindness and tender Mercies ! That satisfies our Mouth with good Things, so that our Youth is renewed like the Eagles ! That maintains and increaseth our Life spiritual, unto Life eternal !—Unto this Grace I commit you, and am, my dear Brother,*

*Your very affectionate Friend and Servant,
In our altogether Lovely and Everloving JESUS,*

L E T T E R XLII.

To Mr. L——s.

My dear Brother in our sweet Lord Jesus,
MOST kindly I thank you for your Letter. Want of Time, not of Love, is the Cause why you hear no oftner from me. I have pray'd our Dear Lord to speak to you, when I could not. Oh none can speak like HIM ! CHRIST has the Tongue of the Learned, and well knows how to speak a Word in Season to him that is weary. Oh, None can speak so seasonably, so suitably to every weary Soul, in every Kind and Degree of their Weariness, as the anointed SAVIOUR ! our All-Wise, and All-Gracious LORD ! Grace is pour'd into his Lips. And from his Mouth such gracious Words proceed, that all bear him Witness, with Wonder, Love and Joy, that hear his glorious Voice ! Oh, never Man spake like this Man ! His Lips are like Lillies, dropping sweet-smelling Myrrh ! Oh the ineffable Sweetness, the refreshing Fragrancy, the Soul-quickning Energy of our LORD's Voice ! With a Word of his Mouth, HE ushers in Light, Life, Liberty, and Glory upon us at once ! Such a Fulness of BLISS, that none can conceive, but the Souls that enjoy it ! And by Them it is inexpressible ! Unspeakably blessed then, must be those happy Souls, that hear, that know, our Beloved's Voice ! For unto all the many Thousands espoused to him, scatter'd over the Face of the whole Earth, he speaks particularly and individually,

vidually, in the Love, Grace, and Power of a GOD ! In the Majesty of JEHOVAH ! And as the LORD *their* GOD ! And thus HE *commands Deliverances for Jacob, Supports, Joys, Salvations, with an All-endearing, and All-efficacious Voice.* As in the old Creation, HE said, *Let there be Light :* and there *was Light.* — Evident then it is, that *never Man spake like the Man CHRIST !* — No Man can speak to the *Case* of any weary Soul, unless CHRIST puts a *Word* into his Mouth for *that Person.* And when Men have spoke to the *Case*, they cannot speak to the *Heart*, unless CHRIST takes the Words from *their Mouth*, and conveys them into the *inmost Soul*, by his *own Almighty Breath.* By the *Word of the LORD*, the Heavens of old were made and garnished : And by the *Word of the LORD*, are New-born Souls form'd and polish'd, until Grace is brightned into Glory. *Heart-work*, doth all belong to the SAVIOUR-GOD, whatever *Instruments* he is pleas'd to work by. Not a *Beam* of Light, Love and Glory, can penetrate our *Souls*, under the most bright and powerful *Discourse*, unless CHRIST the true LIGHT, shineth into our Hearts *therein*, and speaks unto us *thereby.* All our *Times of Refreshing*, come from the *Presence of the LORD.* It is CHRIST that *declares* his Father's Name unto us, either more *mediately*, or *immediately*, whenever the Love of GOD is shed abroad in our *Hearts*, and our *Souls* are changed into the same *Image*, from Glory to Glory. — What *Thanks* then should we give unto GOD for CHRIST ! for this his *Un-speakable GIFT !* and for that spiritual Life, Joy and Glory, which our LORD is pleas'd to communicate to us, by his most Gracious and Efficacious *Voice*, which Way soever he gives us to *hear it !* — I rejoyce with *You*, and the rest of the Brethren, for that *Feast* you had at the *Tabernacle*, on your *Letter-Day.* It was the Love and Glory of our LORD, in himself and Works, which breaking out upon you, enlightened, and enkindled your dear Souls ; and made them like an ascending Flame, in Prayer and Praise ; which was most joyful unto *you*, and acceptable to GOD, thro' JESUS CHRIST. — Indeed my Brother, you then enjoy'd a *Taste* of Heaven's BLISS, the *First-fruits* of that GLORY which awaits you ! And if a *Taste* be so *sweet*, what will the rich, the eternal *Feast* be ! If the *News* of your LORD's being on his

his *Way*, and of his *gathering* of the People unto HIM, was so *delightful* to your Souls; Oh what *ineffable Joy*, will fill your Hearts, when you shall *see him Face to Face*! When he comes in the *Clouds*, with ten Thousands of his *Saints*, in his *own*, and in his *Father's Glory*, and in the *Glory of his holy Angels*! When all the LAMB's *Redeemed*, shall be gather'd together unto HIM, caught up to meet him in the *Air*, to enter into his *Joy and Glory*, and to *sing his Praises*: And so shall be for *ever with the Lord*! Even so come Lord *Jesus*! Come quickly! — In HIM, my dear Brother, I am
Yours Affectionately,

L E T T E R XLIII.

To Mr. B——m.

Dear Sir,

I Hope you experience that *Christ lives in you*. That your Life as a Branch in him your living Root, as in Union to him, as having Communion with him, is secretly maintain'd in the darkest and sharpest Winter-Seasons. And that it is richly increas'd unto a visible Branch-Glory, in those pleasant Spring-Times of his manifestative Favour, which he is graciously pleas'd to afford you. If the Life of Grace in *us*, was not secur'd in Union to that Fulness of Grace, of Grace-Life, which is in *Christ*; it wou'd soon be destroy'd, by that Body of Sin and Death which works in *us*, and by the deadly Temptations of Satan and the World without *us*. But *our Life of Grace*, being *hid with Christ in God*; it shall never be totally extinguish'd in *us* by the greatest Damps that may be cast upon it. But maintain'd and increas'd it shall be, in Principle and Activity, under strongest Opposition, and after woful Decays, until it is perfected in the Life of Glory.

How *safe* then are we in *Christ*! What Cause have we to *Rejoyce in the Lord alway*! And to wait upon him continually for renewed Quicknings, whenever, with the Psalmist, we have the sad Experience, that *our Souls cleave unto the Dust*! Oh, our Dear Lord Jesus, our tender, compassionate Saviour, will *Remember us in our low Estate*; because his *Mer-*

*cy endureth for ever ! The Love of his Heart towards us, is immense and unchangeable ; His Care of us, perpetual ; his Wisdom to restore us, is infinite ; and his Power to save us to the uttermost, is Almighty. And into his All-wise, All-gracious, and Almighty Hands, let us Commit the Keeping of our Souls, thro' Time, the Meeting of them for Eternity ; and the Raising of our Bodies unto endless Glory. For, Of all that the Father hath given him, he will lose nothing but raise it up at the last Day. And, Present us Faultless before the Presence of his, and his Father's Glory, with exceeding Joy. And so shall we be forever with the Lord ! — With kind Service to Self and Spouse, I remain, dear Sir,
 Your affectionate and obliged Friend and Servant,
 In JESUS our Lord, our Life, our ALL,*

L E T T E R XLIV.

To Mr. M——s.

My dear Brother in Christ,

I Trust, you and your dear Yokefellow, have abundant Experience of the Lord's Goodness, since I saw you. Our dear Lord hath brought us far on our Way thro' the Wilderness, towards Canaan's Land. Yet a little while, and we shall see JESUS. See him as he is, be made perfectly like him, and live in his immediate Presence, under the bright, enkindling Beams of his Love and Glory, to an endless Eternity. My dear Children, you are the Lord's ; his Heart is fix'd on you, his Care is over you, and all his Perfections are engag'd for you. All the Fulness of GOD, is yours in Love. Then, be sure, you can want nothing. God, your own God in Christ, will see to it, that you shall not want any good Thing. Live by Faith, upon your Portion in God, upon GOD your Portion. You can never spend it. Draw Water with Joy out of this Well of Salvation : You can never draw it dry, nor sink it an Hair's Breadth. Make GOD your ALL. He is so : Believe him to be so. And, put HIM for a Well, while passing thro' the Valley of Baca, this Vale of Tears. And blessed, blessed shall you be. For lo, This Well of living Water, in a thousand various Streams, will spring up, and run over, for your full and continual Supply, while you, rejoicing, sing unto it.

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I am weak in Body ; but my kind Lord, *stayeth his rough Wind in the Day of his East-Wind* : Sets Bounds to my Affliction, and says, *Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further*. Oh I find the GOD of Jacob, to be unto me, a *very present Help in Trouble*. He empties me from Vessel to Vessel, to refine me the more. He drives me by Afflictions, he draws me by Mercies, from every Thing below *himself*, to live upon HIM, as my present and eternal ALL ! And a glorious, Soul-satisfying ALL, is my GOD to me. Praise him on my Account ; and lift up a Cry for your Friend that loves you.— Now, *The GOD of Peace, fill you with all Joy and Peace in Believing !* So prays, my dear Brother and Sister,

*Yours in the LORD, our Love, our Life,
Our All in All,*

L E T T E R XLV.

To Mr. W——s.

My very dear Brother,

WE live in a World of Snares : The Lord, who hath sav'd our Souls from Death, kept our Feet from falling ! It is well that we are Christ's Care : Else we should fall, and rise no more. But, all Glory to the God of all Grace, we that have believed in Jesus, are forever secur'd from final *Apostacy* ! — Yet much lies upon us, in Point of *Duty*, to watch daily, that we backslide not from our GOD. That we are not content with Distance from him, and want of Communion with him ; That we live not to his Dishonour, but actually in all Things to his Glory : Yea, that we increase in Faith and Love, and go on, 'perfecting Holiness in the Fear of God.' — And blessed be his great Name, that whenever we fail, there is the Fountain of Christ's most precious Blood, to wash in ; and an inexhaustible Fulness of Grace in him, to supply all our Wants, until Grace is ripened into Glory. — *The God of Love and Peace be with you !* I am, my dear Brother,

Yours most affectionately,

E R R A T A.

PAGE 33, Line 37, for *that*, read *the*. P. 60, l. 8, for *Mispence*, r. *Mispence*. p. 76, l. 16, for *Hearts*, r. *Heart*. p. 77, l. 19, for *tares*, r. *tears*. p. 38, l. 26, after *endur'd*, r. *well*.





